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HISTORY OF SCANDINAVIAN  
MINNESOTA





THE  
HISTORY of SHAKOPEE  
MINNESOTA

1682-1930



BY  
JULIUS A. COLLER, II

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*The Shakopee Printing Company*  
Shakopee, Minnesota  
1933







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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
	LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	40
	FOREWORD	41
	NOTE TO READER	42
I	THE	43
II	THE	44
III	THE	45
IV	THE	46
V	THE	47
VI	THE	48
VII	THE	49
VIII	THE	50
	THE	51
	THE	52
	THE	53
	THE	54
	THE	55
	THE	56
	THE	57
	THE	58
	THE	59
	THE	60
	THE	61
	THE	62
	THE	63
	THE	64
	THE	65
	THE	66
	THE	67
	THE	68
	THE	69
	THE	70
	THE	71
	THE	72
	THE	73
	THE	74
	THE	75
	THE	76
	THE	77
	THE	78
	THE	79
	THE	80
	THE	81
	THE	82
	THE	83
	THE	84
	THE	85
	THE	86
	THE	87
	THE	88
	THE	89
	THE	90
	THE	91
	THE	92
	THE	93
	THE	94
	THE	95
	THE	96
	THE	97
	THE	98
	THE	99
	THE	100

"Nothing would be done at all, if a man waited till he could do it so well that no one would find fault with it."

John Cardinal Newman





## ILLUSTRATIONS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
	LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	vii
	FOREWORD	ix
	NOTE TO PUBLICATION	xi
I	THE AWAKENING 1682-1851	1
II	EARLY SETTLEMENT 1851-1860	6
III	STAMMERING YEARS 1860-1870	18
IV	MARCHING ON 1870-1890	29
V	THE GAY NINETIES 1890-1901	42
VI	THE NEW CENTURY 1901-1917	52
VII	THE WAR YEARS 1914-1919	62
VIII	YESTERDAYS 1920-1930	68
	CHRONOLOGY	77
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	79
	INDEX	83





## ILLUSTRATIONS

	Page
Chief Shakopee .....	2
First House in Shakopee .....	3
Reverend S. W. Pond .....	4
Thomas A. Holmes .....	7
Faribault Springs .....	8
Map of the Battle of Shakopee .....	12
Reverend George Keller .....	14
Horace B. Strait .....	19
The Old and New St. Mark's Church .....	23
The Benedictine Fathers .....	24
St. Peter's Church .....	25
Map of Shakopee's Railroad Connections .....	30
Shakopee Bridge .....	34
Julius A. Coller .....	37
The City Hall .....	38
Methodist Episcopal Church .....	39
Strunk's Drug Store .....	44
Reverend S. W. Pond .....	45
Common Scene on Shakopee's Water Front .....	46
First Presbyterian Church .....	48
St. John's Church .....	49
"Old 41" .....	50
Street Fair Scene .....	54
Joseph A. Ring .....	54
H. J. Peck .....	55
John Thiem .....	55
State Reformatory for Women .....	56
Julius A. Coller .....	57
Senator J. B. Ries .....	58
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Alois Plut .....	59
St. Mary's Church .....	60
Arthur Lemmer .....	66
The Old Court House .....	69
Remodeled Court House .....	71
E. J. Pond .....	73
The Present St. Mark's Church .....	74
Interior St. Mark's Church .....	75





## FOREWORD

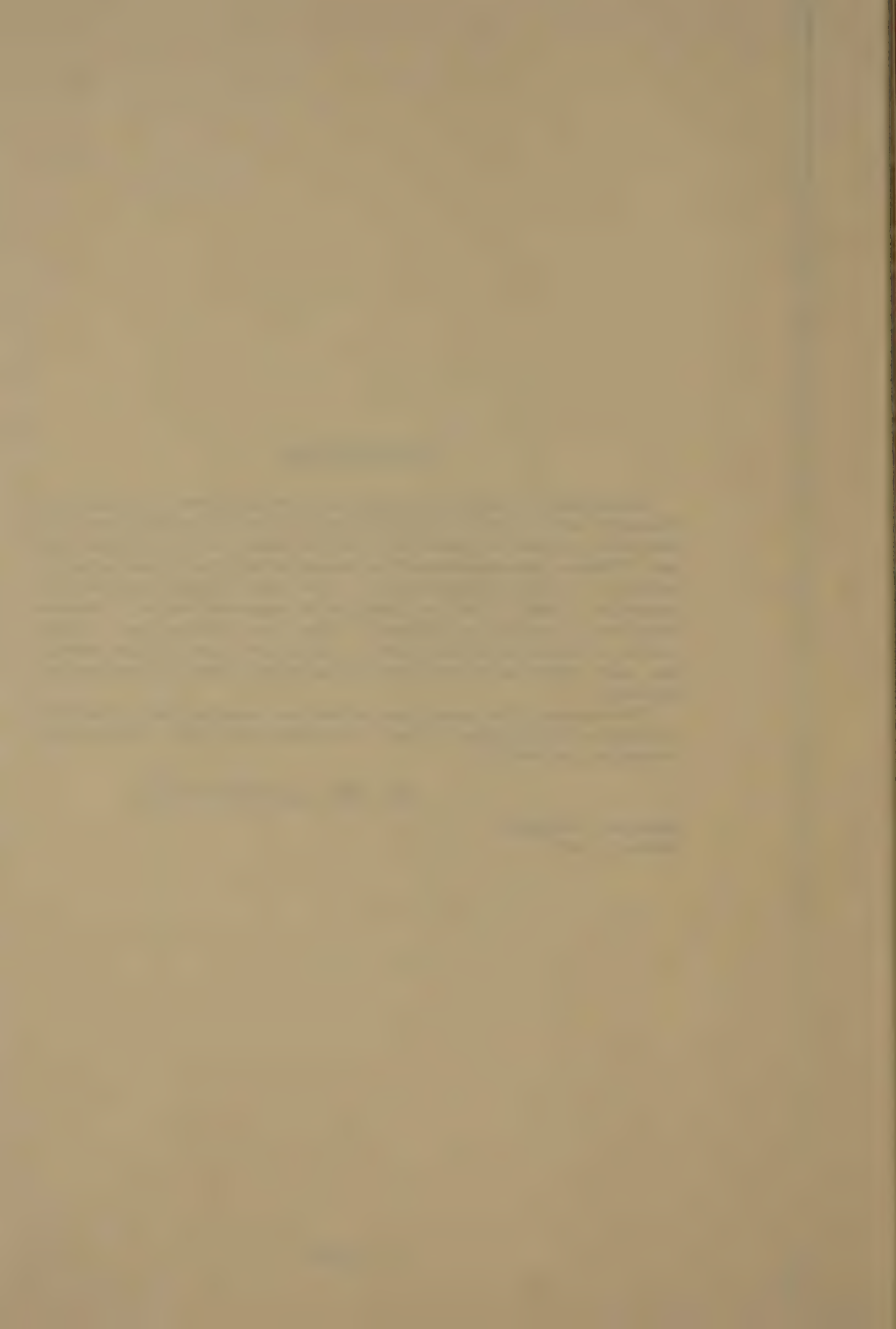
This history was begun in the spring of 1931 as a thesis for a course in Minnesota History which I was taking at the University of Minnesota. As submitted it covered the years 1682 to 1870 in three chapters. Doctor Theodore C. Blegen, Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, who was teaching the course, suggested that I revise these chapters and bring the history up to date. I took very kindly to his suggestion and set to the task which was not without its problems. It has been, however, very enjoyable because of the active interest taken by those from whom I sought information, and I tender my sincere gratitude for their generous co-operation and assistance.

The purpose of this history is to exhibit the chequered story of Shakopee in miniature and to make it a part of recorded history, the "record that defies the tooth of time."

*JULIUS A. COLLIER, II*

Shakopee, Minnesota  
October 1, 1932





## NOTE TO PUBLICATION

Publication of this history would have been impossible but for the generous and whole-hearted aid given to the project by Mr. William F. Duffy, publisher of the Shakopee Argus-Tribune. It was through the pages of the Argus-Tribune that the history was first made a part of recorded history, and it is again largely through Mr. Duffy's kindly interest in local history that this reprint is available in compact form. Special recognition is also due to the members of the Argus-Tribune staff who co-operated to their utmost during the publication, which by its nature was exacting.

The use of illustrations greatly add to a publication of this kind, and I am pleased to acknowledge the generosity of those who made them possible. Mr. Joseph Matt of the Wanderer Printing Co., St. Paul, furnished the cut of Father Keller; the Minnesota Historical Society allowed me to use the cut of the Battle of Shakopee while the State Board of Control and the local officers loaned me the cut of the Reformatory. Mr. Win V. Working supplied the cut of Thomas Holmes while Very Reverend Dean M. Sava gave permission to use the cuts of the Benedictine Fathers, Monsignor Plut, and the remodeled church; and Mr. J. B. Ries furnished the cut of himself. With a few exceptions, all other cuts are property of the Shakopee Printing Co. and were used by Mr. Duffy's permission. Several other pictures should fittingly appear in the following pages, but cuts were not available and having them made would have been too great an undertaking under the circumstances.

My last acknowledgment goes to my ever willing assistant proof reader—my Mother.

J. A. C., II

Shakopee, Minnesota  
March 16, 1933





*Chapter I*  
THE AWAKENING  
1682-1851

In 1682 La Salle solemnly took possession of the region watered by the Mississippi River and named it Louisiana in honor of his king. Thus it was that Louis XIV, the "Grand Monarch" of France, became nominal ruler of the Minnesota (St. Peter) River valley, which was part of Louisiana. But less than a hundred years after claiming Louisiana, France was forced to cede it to Spain by the Franco-Spanish treaty of 1762. Soon after, Louisiana was again to be a pawn on the European chessboard, for, in 1800 by the Treaty of San Ildefonso, Napoleon, who cherished dreams of a vast colonial empire, forced Spain to re-cede Louisiana to France. It was with the Treaty of San Ildefonso that "the shadow of the Corsican fell across the seas." Napoleon I was ruler of Louisiana, which included the unsettled Minnesota Valley. The near proximity of a strong military power like France greatly troubled Thomas Jefferson who was then president of the newly-born republic. But time moved on in its relentless course. In March, 1803, Napoleon's star halted in its meteoric rise, and then slowly began to sink as war clouds gathered over Europe. Pressed for funds and in fear that Great Britain might seize Louisiana because of his inability to protect it, Napoleon sold it to United States for 80,000,000 francs, and thus the Minnesota Valley came under the jurisdiction of Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States.

It was a virgin valley with all its wealth and beauty still untouched within its bosom, peopled only by roving bands of red men who little cared, if they ever knew, that their lands were claimed by powerful rulers of foreign courts. But things gradually began to change after the Louisiana Purchase was ratified by a rather reluctant Congress. In 1805 Upper Louisiana, which included the Minnesota Valley, was organized as a part of the Missouri Territory. In the same year Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike and his party, which was one of the many that President Jefferson sent to explore the vast purchase, reached the mouth of the Minnesota and held a council with the Indians on the island that is now known as Pike Island. Pike's expedition was not followed up for some years, and its only result was a better knowledge of the region. However, acting upon Pike's recommendation, a military post (Fort Snelling) was established at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers in 1819. After the establishment of Fort Snelling, expeditions up the Minnesota, which had not been navigated by any explorer since Carver's descent in 1767, became more frequent. (1) In 1823 an expedition under Major Stephen H. Long started from the fort to explore the valley. His party was divided into two sections, one followed the Minne-





sota by land while the other pushed their small crafts up the winding river, which was found to be rapidly diminishing in size, until they were unable to use their canoes. The expeditions then merged and continued on mount to the source of the Minnesota where the explorers turned northward to follow the Red River of the North into Canada. (2) It has been reported that this expedition had dinner on the site of the present city of Shakopee. This report, however, seems erroneous, because William Keating, the Geologist and Historiographer of the expedition, makes no mention of such a dinner in his detailed published account of the journey. He did, undoubtedly, know of the Indian Chief who, he recorded in his journal, "is called Shakpa, which means six . . . and is a distinguished man . . ." (3)

On the 24th day of June, 1835, George Catlin, who became famous for his Indian paintings, and Robert Serril Wood, an Englishman, made a trip up the Minnesota to visit the Sacred Red Pipestone Quarry. It is here that the Indians got the rose colored stone for their peace pipes. Catlin describes the stone as being quartz of close grain and exceedingly hard with as high a gloss "as a piece of melted glass". (4) This stone is now usually called Catlinite, in memory of the painter and adventurer. (5) During the same year, George W. Featherstonhaugh, under the direction of the United States Government, made a slight geological survey of the river, and after he returned to England published a book entitled "Canoe Voyages Up The Minnay Sotor." In it Featherstonhaugh records that he "passed a village called Shakpay, or Six, the name of the chief of the band; it consisted of seventeen large teebees, all of them closed, the band being gone . . . to hunt buffaloes. This is called nine leagues from the fort (Snelling). The teebees were on the left bank, and the burying-ground, with some scaffolds, were on the opposite side of the river." (6)

It was in 1842 that the first steamboat, bearing a party of pleasure seekers, churned the cloudy waters of the Minnesota and startled "the usually stoical native from his tranquil dreams." (7) Not, however, until the summer of 1850 was general navigation of the river really begun when the "fire canoe," Anothony Wayne, made its first trip. It was soon followed by the Yankee, which reached the mouth of the Cottonwood River. On the return trip the Yankee spent an hour at Little Six's village, called Prairie des Francais by the French but which at the time was commonly

known as Teen-tah-o-ton-wa, which translated means the village on the prairie. This name was soon shortened to Prairie Village or Prairieville. (8) "The old Chief (Shah-kpa-dan) with about a hundred of his braves came down to the landing to meet the excursionists, and there he made a speech claiming big damages because they had tramped down his corn. True, the corn had been drowned out and washed away by the high water long before the whites landed; but then, the Great Spirit was angry because they had taken those big fire-canoes up the river, and that was why the freshet came, so they ought to pay for the corn. How Six (or "Half a Dozen," as James Goodhue of the Pioneer called him) succeeded with his damage suit is not stated, but our



CHIEF SHAKOPEE



travelers reached St. Paul all safe by night." (9) These excursions demonstrated the navigability of the Minnesota River by steamboat and had much weight in bringing about the Treaty of Mendota the following year.

Between 1820, when Missouri was admitted to the Union, and 1834, when the part of Minnesota west of the Mississippi was attached to Michigan Territory, the valley was without any governmental status—a sort of an orphan or outcast. Two years later, in 1836, the part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi was attached to Wisconsin when it was organized as a territory, and all of Minnesota west of the Mississippi was attached to Iowa. In 1848 Wisconsin was admitted to the Union and in the following year Minnesota Territory was organized, which included the area not only of the present state, but also of the two Dakotas and part of Montana.

Most of the newly organized territory was Indian land, and settlers gazed longingly and wistfully at the rich valley of the Minnesota which was not yet theirs for settlement. Some did settle in the closed land, however.

As early as 1844 Oliver Faribault, the well-known Indian trader, built a house of tamarack logs (afterwards covered by siding) which still stands (1932) in the eastern part of the present city, near the Faribault Springs, which were named after him. His daughter, Mrs. Charles



FIRST HOUSE IN SHAKOPEE

Manaige, still lives in the house which was the first to be built within the limits of the present city of Shakopee.

In November of 1847 the Reverend Samuel W. Pond came to the village on the prairie as a missionary to the Sioux. It was in May of 1834 when he and his brother, Gideon S. Pond, came to Minnesota as independent missionaries from their home in Connecticut. During the following month these heroic men built a substantial two-room cabin of large oak logs, with bark serving as a roof; this missionary cabin, which was the first home of white men in present day Minneapolis, ante-dated the Sibley House at Mendota by three years. (10) In this mission, which was just a stone's throw from the present Lake Harriet Pavilion, the missionary brothers labored teaching the Indians the word of God and the arts of civilization. The Ponds reduced the Sioux tongue to writing and evolved an alphabet, which was soon followed by a Sioux dictionary and grammar, all of which are still used. On November, 22, 1833, Reverend Samuel W. Pond was the bridegroom and Miss Cordelia Eggleston, also a missionary, was the bride in the first wedding that united the lives of two white people on the shore or in the vicinity of Lake Harriet. Among the guests were General Sibley, an Doctor Emerson, the owner of the noted slave, Dred Scott. (11)

Believing that he could continue his work more effectively, the





Reverend S. W. Pond came to the Indian village of Teen-tah-o-ton-wa in



REV. S. W. POND

pioneer's way. Moreover, the Indian did not fit in with his plan of things. He was often lazy; he was adept at stealing, and had more curiosity than any other human being, often frightening people by peeping in at cabin windows, or noiselessly opening a door and peering over the shoulder of an occupant before his presence was discovered. Generally they were peaceful, but occasionally they would exhibit unexpected treachery, as is illustrated by the murder of a Mrs. Keener in the fall of 1852. The Indians molested a party coming from St. Paul after crossing the ferry above the present Bloomington Bridge. One of the party, Mr. Spencer, threatened the Indians with his cane. At this the Indians became enraged, and one, Yu-ha-zee by name, raised his gun with the intention of shooting Mr. Spencer, but another Indian diverted his aim and the bullet struck Mrs. Keener in the back of the neck, instantly killing her. A squad of soldiers from the fort captured the murderer, and the following year he was hanged. (13)

the fall of 1847, when his son, E. J. Pond, who still lives (1932) in Shakopee, was one month old. A mission house was soon erected east of the present city limits, where he was not only a missionary but also a farmer, since he lacked the financial backing that most missionaries now enjoy. His missionary activities among the Sioux were very successful, but not without trials and vexations. "On one occasion he was seated before a window of his home when an arrow shot by an unseen hand struck the casing a few inches from his head and remained there quivering, a startling evidence of some Indian's savage animosity. At another time when services were being held for a group of Indian girls, a number of braves rushed in and dragged the girls out by their hair. (12)

But the missionary had patience with the Indian, a virtue that the average pioneer lacked. The Indian was in the

This incident only served to convince the settlers that they had been in the right with their continued agitation to have the Indian titles extinguished and the rich land opened for settlement by the whites. This was authorized in 1851 by the Treaty of Mendota which opened the valley for settlement and provided for the moving of the Indians at Teen-tah-o-ton-wa to the government reservation on the upper Minnesota. The removal was not accomplished until the fall of 1853, however. On the night of October 10th, the Indians held their last scalp dance in the old village. It must have been a weird scene as over three hundred savages, painted and scantily dressed, yelled and danced until exhausted. (14) Two days later the younger Chief Shakopee and most of his band left for the reservation. The aged chief, after whom Shakopee is named,





remained near his old village, where he died and was buried about the middle of the fifties. (15) Thus the Treaty of Mendota ended the reign of the Indian and opened the way for the dynasty of the white man who rode in the great "fire-canoe" and spoke with "thunder-sticks."

- (1) Folwell, W. W. HISTORY OF MINNESOTA Vol. 1, pps 56 and 106
- (2) Keating, Wm. LONG EXPEDITION Vol. 1. 327 ff.
- (3) Ibid 402
- (4) Catlin, Geo. NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS Vol. 2. 185 and 232.
- (5) MINNESOTA IN THREE CENTURIES Vol. 1, 328.
- (6) Featherstonhaugh, G. S. A CANOE VOYAGE UP THE MINNAY SOTOR, Vol. 1, 286.
- (7) Hinds, Wm. SKETCH OF SHAKOPEE 6.
- (8) Ibid 2
- (9) Hughes, Thomas MINNESOTA HISTORICAL COLLECTION Vol. 10 p. 134.
- (10) Pond, E. J. A written communication to the author. April, 1931. Atwater, I. HISTORY OF MINNEAPOLIS 25.
- (11) Pond in Shakopee Argus-Tribune Feb. 20, 1930.
- (12) Ibid
- (13) Hinds SKETCH OF SHAKOPEE 25.
- (14) Ibid 31.
- (15) Ibid 5.



## *Chapter II*

### EARLY SETTLEMENT

#### 1851-1860

In the spring of 1851, just before the Treaty of Mendota, Thomas A. Holmes, who was the victim through most of his life of an acute case of town-site mania, secured a license to trade with the Indians of the Minnesota River. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1804. In 1831 the first symptoms of his mania developed, and he bought some property in Indiana. He sold this in the early spring of 1835 and moved to Milwaukee, where he built the first frame dwelling in the embryo city. (16) Here he remained dealing in real estate until fall when he attended a government auction and bought 108 acres of government land in another part of the Wisconsin Territory. With several other men he platted and laid the foundation of Wisconsin City, which is now known as Janesville. (17) While here he served on the committee that located a railroad which was to extend from Milwaukee to the Mississippi and which later became part of the Milwaukee system. (18) Holmes, however, did not wait to see the road built. Selling out shortly for \$10,000, he built two boats in which he ascended the Mississippi to a point about eight miles above the present city of Winona where he landed on the Wisconsin side and established a trading post which was called Holmes' Landing. A good many Swiss farmers settled in the vicinity and starting in 1846 Germans came in large numbers to settle at the landing which is now known as Fountain City. (19) But true to the instinctive urge of a pioneer, he soon moved on, and in 1849 we find him as a member of the first Territorial Legislature of Minnesota. (20) After the session adjourned, he purchased the site of Itasca in Anoka County and here laid out another town. The little lake of Itasca is all that is left today to remind one of this settlement, which was just across the river from the present railroad station of Dayton in Hennepin County. (21)

In the spring of '51, Holmes took a canoe journey up the Minnesota





River, stopping at a hollow near the old Indian village of Teen-tah-o-ton-wa, where he cooked a meal. Holmes was impressed with this site, but continued up the river as far as Le Sueur. He decided, however, to locate near the hollow where he took his meal, and returned to his post at Itasca. Bringing logs and his stock of goods on the flat-boat Wild Paddy, "Tom" Holmes soon had a log trading house built on the top of the river bank. This was the first building in the original town site of Shakopee. It was sort of a block house, built with the help of John McKenzie, Emerson Shumway, and Daniel Apgar, who came with Holmes. When the building was finished, it was stocked with Holmes' small supply of calico, blankets, powder, lead, tobacco, and trinkets, which he traded with the Indians for furs.



THOMAS A. HOLMES

By the time Holmes located there were four other families living near the east end of the present city. These were the families of the Reverend Samuel W. Pond, Oliver Faribault, Hazen Mooers, and John Mooers. Reverend Pond had been living in his house for four years, and Oliver Faribault located in 1844 to trade with the Indians with whom he had traded for many years. Faribault was a quarter breed, and married a Sioux maiden. (22)

Hazen Mooers came to the Northwest from New York shortly after the War of 1812 in which he had taken part. Mooers was placed in charge of the Lake Traverse post of the American Fur Company on the upper Minnesota. During 1835 he went to Gray Cloud Island just above Hastings. There he married Gray Cloud, the halfbreed grandchild of Chief Wabasha, after whom the island was named. When she died some years later, Mooers married a white woman. In 1846 he came to Shakopee where he built a cabin in which he lived until 1849 when he left for Fort Ridgley where he died in 1858. His son John remained at Shakopee for some years. (23)

In the summer of 1851 David Faribault started a rival to Holmes' embryo city, about a mile and a half east of present Shakopee. A few shanties were built and a small colony of half breeds gathered about, but the rival could not keep step with the more vigorous growth of the older town and was soon abandoned.

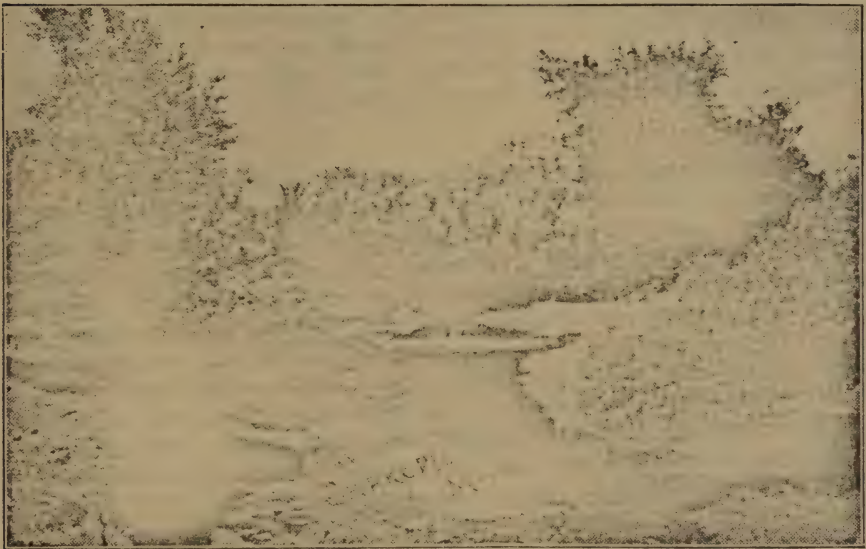
Besides those mentioned, John C. Sommerville, Arnold Graffenstatt, and R. Lewis were at Shakopee during the winter of '51. Sommerville and Graffenstatt spent most of the winter gathering logs at Spring Lake for the saw mill which Lewis intended to build, but never did. Several claim seekers came up from St. Paul and Mendota and located claims on which they built a claim shanty, or rather pen, for it was just a few logs thrown together without roof or door. Very few of these adventurers returned to





take up the land in accordance with the right of preemption. Daniel Apgar, who came with Holmes in '51 was an exception. He marked out a claim and then went back to New York where he was married. Early the following spring he returned with his wife and his brother Ai G. and his wife. He was followed in October by his father, mother, and four younger children. Harrison Raynor came at that time, and also Joseph Graffenstatt who joined his brother. (24)

During the same spring David L. Fuller, of St. Paul, purchased the site of Chaska from Mr. Holmes and also took half interest in Shakopee. Holmes shared this town site with Fuller to gain support against the rival town of Faribault, which was supported by Rice and Steele. (25) Others who arrived and located at or near Shakopee were Alvin Dorward and family, Abraham Bodnaman and family, Benjamin F. Turner and wife, Henry



FARIBAULT SPRINGS

Marcley and wife, Edward Smith, Wm. Holmes and family, Peter Atwood, Timothy Canty, Baptiste LeBeau and John Barclay. (26)

Although Shakopee was the metropolis of the valley, and thought by many to be the head of navigation, it did not change in appearance to any great extent. By the end of 1852 there were six buildings within the present limits of Shakopee, excluding the Faribault house. There was Holmes' log store on the east side of Holmes street, at the top of the river bank. It was 16x22 feet and although it contained two stories, it was only 9 feet high. The attic, which contained the sleeping quarters, was only the height of one log's width at the sides and a man couldn't stand erect in the very middle. A log kitchen with a lean-to roof was added in 1852. This place was torn down in the later sixties. (27)



The second building was the frame store that Holmes built in the early summer of '52 about a hundred feet south of the log structure. It was comparatively pretentious, being 16x24 feet and 12 feet in height at the sides, having a square store front facing west. It was used as a store by Holmes and Robert Kennedy until 1854, when it was taken over by George Barnes who conducted Shakopee's first saloon in it. This building was torn down in 1889. Peter Atwood also built a building, consisting of a main part 16x24 and two wings, 14x16 feet, on the north and south sides, the building faced the east. It became the first hotel, under the name of the Shakopee House, with Robert Kennedy as landlord. During the delays that were encountered in the construction of the Shakopee House, Atwood built a one story frame building on the lot now occupied by the post office for Harrison Raynor. L. M. Brown built a frame residence. The last building which was started, but not finished, was the frame building of Moses S. Titus. This building was a quarter of a mile outside the original townsite (lot 9, block 24 of Titus Addition). There were also four temporary shanties built during 1852. In the one occupied by Henry Marclay and his wife a son was born shortly after their arrival. The infant lived only four days, but will live on in history as the first white person to be born and the first white person to die within the city of Shakopee. (28)

At the beginning of 1853 there was very little change in the population from what it had been the previous fall. The winter, although unusually mild, had isolated the town and ended building activities. But with the coming of spring building was resumed. During '53 three hotels were erected; The Wasson House on Holmes Street which was the first building in Shakopee to be painted, the Pennsylvania House, and the New Shakopee House, which later became the hardware store of George Reis. (29) A Mr. Coulton built the first brick house in Shakopee which later was the residence of D. L. How and is now used as a hospital and residence by Dr. P. M. Fischer. (30). David Fuller and Holmes built brick buildings with a common wall on the Holmes Street levee, one was a warehouse and the other a store. (31) Several residences were built. This was the year in which the Indians were moved and in which L. M. Brown and Dr. F. N. Ripley, the first lawyer and physician respectively, settled in Shakopee. At the foot of Cass Street, Holmes put a ferry in operation. A post office was established in December, with T. A. Holmes as postmaster, but actual service did not begin until January 10, 1854. It was also in this year that the first marriage was performed, that of James White and Mrs. Reynolds. (32).

Steamboat arrivals occurred almost every week during the navigation season of 1853, bringing merchandise and settlers. During this year Shakopee gained another means of communication with the outside world. A stage line was put into operation from St. Paul to Mankato, passing through the growing village. (33).

By the legislative act of March 5, 1853, Scott County was organized and the county seat located at Shakopee. The first officers of the county were appointed by Governor Ramsey from people living in or near Shakopee. They were: Ai G. Apgar, sheriff; Daniel Apgar, justice of the peace; Thomas S. Turner, chairman of the county board; Frank Wasson and Comfort Barnes, commissioners. The first election was held the third Monday in September





at the Wasson House which was the only polling place in the county, since the whole county constituted only one election precinct. The first term of the district court was held in Holmes Hall on the same day, with Andrew G. Chatfield, associate justice presiding. (34).

The year of 1854 was the beginning of a period of rapid growth which was to continue with increasing momentum until it reached its greatest height in the boom of '57, and then to be cut short by the panic. On May 5th, Shakopee got a valuable bit of advertising, and quite by accident too. After failing to get over the Carver rapids, the Minnesota Belle, a boat from Pittsburg bound for the upper valley, was obliged to tie up at Shakopee and discharge its large cargo of passengers and freight, to the great delight of the local populace. To them this event proved that Shakopee was the head of navigation, and it was extensively used to secure new settlers. (35).

Miss Mary Jane Turner opened the first public school in the fall. As the year drew to a close, Shakopee had developed into more than just a speculative townsite. Settlers began to come from the East and from northern Europe to settle on the Minnesota River at the "head of navigation."

In 1855 Allen Green established the Shakopee Independent, the first newspaper in Shakopee, and it is claimed by many to have been the first in the Minnesota Valley. The second issue of the paper was published on November 10th. It contained poetry, an editorial on Queen Victoria and Napoleon, the latest news from the Crimean War, discussion on slavery, an editorial on the benefits of Minnesota, and the following editorial dealing with an important local question:

"Let There Be Light"

"A proposition has been made and subscription started for the purpose of raising funds for a thorough lighting of our streets. This is a movement in the right direction, too, and we feel confident that the practical way in which it has been taken hold of will ensure its speedy consumation." (36)

Many years passed, however, before there was light, and late returning swains were left to their own resources to keep from falling over a sleeping cow or dog.

Among the advertisers are names that are connected with and familiar in early Shakopee history. We find Thomas J. Galbraith, who later became Indian Agent, making it known that he was an "Attorney at Law and Commissioner for Pennsylvania. (in) Shakopee, Minnesota Territory." (37). There are the names of Holland and Warner, Dr. Weiser, D. M. Storer, Wakefield and Brown, G. W. Hidden, and many others. There was the advertisement of "Tom" Holmes announcing his new townsite of Greenwood at the forks of the Crow River in Hennepin County—twenty-three miles from Shakopee and thirty-three from St. Anthony. (38) Evidently Holmes was getting restless and wanted to move on as he had always done. Quoting the Independent of a later date we find that: "He stated that he had never seen a railroad car or telegraph wire. Said he, 'I'm a leetle too fast for your railroads and telegraphs—they can't keep up with me.' It was his intention to go to the Pacific shore in Oregon and lay out a town where one of the Pacific Railways must have a terminus." (39) Holmes never realized





his intention, but in 1857 he started the settlement of Holmes City in Douglas County and in 1862 he founded Bannock City, Montana. (40).

In later issues of the paper we find the names of Henry Hinds, attorney; Hirscher and Peters furniture store; Isaac Lincoln's saw mill; and the advertisement of J. Miller's "Ice Cream Saloon," which must have made many a heart beat in anticipation, for, it informed the public that "during the warm season ladies and gents will be served with that delicious luxury." There was also the following unique advertisement:

"A wife wanted" by a man of 21 who is a good and intelligent business man. "She must be intelligent, modest, good housekeeper and capable of raising a small family. If she owns property, no objection will be made." (41).

The Independent did not have the journalistic field to itself. The Valley Herald was soon established, and lasted about three years, as did the Scott County Democrat, established in 1859. The Republican Advocate lasted from 1856 to '59. The Shakopee Spy lasted for two years and the Shakopee Reporter and the Scott County Mirror were short lived. The Shakopee Argus, which is still published as the Shakopee Argus-Tribune, was not established until 1861. (42)

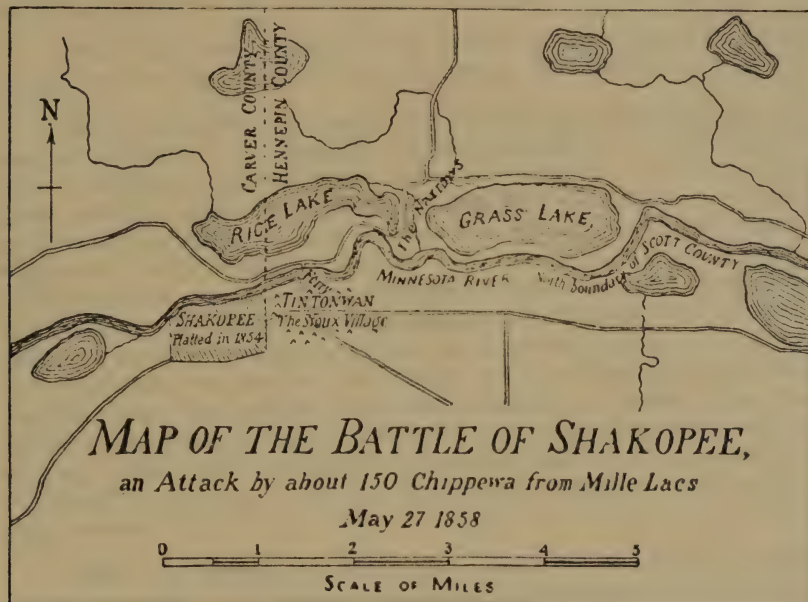
In the fall of '55 plans for the Court House were drawn. It was to be two stories high exclusive of the basement, 64 feet in length and 42 feet in height. The basement was to be used as a jail and the ground floor to be made into various offices for county purposes. The plans were drawn by a Mr. Hood, and it was estimated that it would cost about \$10,000. (43) It was to be built on the block donated by Holmes and Fuller. However, nothing was done until August 6th, '57 when Comfort Barnes' proposal to build the Court House was accepted. Work was commenced according to the previous plans, and bonds to the amount of \$10,000 were issued. Owing to the financial stringency caused by the panic, they were disposed of with great difficulty, and then at a large discount. The walls were erected, but lack of funds prevented the completion of building operations. The following fall the Court House was completed by local private subscription, due to a threatening county seat removal fight. (44).

The town continued its rapid growth during 1856 and on May 23rd, 1857, Shakopee was incorporated; the organization was completed on the 13th of August the same year. The first officers were: Mayor, N. M. D. McMullen; Treasurer, E. Lincoln; Recorder, A. O. Risley; City Attorney, J. M. Holland; and Aldermen, Isaac Lincoln, Peter Yost, T. A. Holmes and J. R. Hinds. The city organization of '57 lasted until 1862 when the charter was surrendered and Shakopee lapsed into township organization until 1866. (45)

From 1857 to 1860 the town was affected by the panic, and although settlement continued, the big boom was at an end and things quieted down until the war clouds of the 60's roused the city. However, in May, 1858, some of the citizens witnessed an exciting event in the last battle between the Sioux and the Chippewa Indians, the Battle of Shakopee. "Ever since the Dakotas had been exiled to their reservation on the upper Minnesota some of the bands were wont to return in summer to their ancient homes, where they were tolerated and even welcomed by the whites. In May, 1858,



some 150 of Shakopee's band were in camp just below the nascent village on the Minnesota . . . . On the early morning of the 27th one of the men fishing in the Minnesota River was shot at from the north bank. The Sioux warriors recognized the hostile shot." They secured arms from the citizens of Shakopee, many of whom went down to see the battle from the high river bank. A Sioux woman put the braves across the river at Murphy's ferry and they found cover in the "narrows." The Chippewa made a sudden attack and departed. (46) The Sioux brought back four or five bodies which were scalped, beheaded and terribly mutilated by the squaws, to such an extent that when one of the white witnesses of the battle, George F.



Coller, returned home and began relating the proceedings to his wife, it nauseated her just as it had the men as they watched the squaws swing the entrails of the unlucky Chippewas over the open fires.

In September of 1859 Shakopee was visited by the great German statesman and writer, Carl Schurz. He came up the river from Fort Snelling. The Minnesota, he said, with its hilly, gently sloping banks was like the most beautiful parts of the famed Rhine of his native land and it awakened recollections of the Fatherland. He was met by "the only musical instruments in the village, two small drums and a big one." That evening he addressed a large gathering in both German and English. The following morning he left for Chaska and Waconia.

A few days later saw the distinguished visitor back in Shakopee for a short stay during which he wrote the following brief but interesting letter to his wife.

"Shakopee,  
September 22, 1859  
6 A. M.

"This is a great country. At four o'clock yesterday I was through with my meeting at Shaska (Chaska) and set out, by way of Shakopee, where





I spoke a few days ago, to go to Lexington . . . . . One mile from Shakopee my companion asked me to stop at a brewery on the way, which we accordingly did. Suddenly we heard the "band" of Shakopee, made up of the familiar drums, and behold! the people of Shakopee were coming in nine wagons, with flying banners, to give me a festive entrance to the place. My recent speech had delighted them so that they absolutely would have more. Thunder of a cannon, a bonfire, a hall packed to bursting with people, all the beautiful ladies of Shakopee sitting on the front benches. The excitement was tremendous. I spoke as never before, and all, male and female, were highly inspired. Today for Lexington. There goes the whistle of the steamer which should take this letter. Adieu, adieu . . . . ."

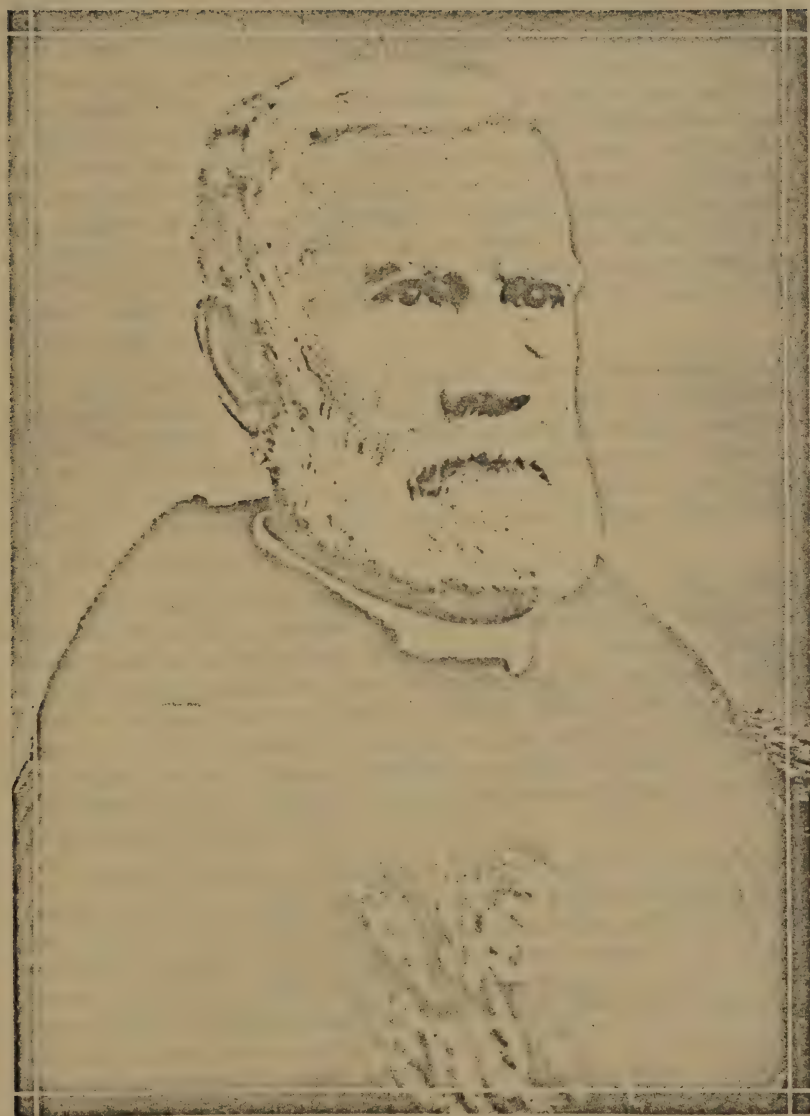
Brief as it was. Schurz's visit left its mark, especially on those of German extraction and it came to the top in the election of 1860.\*

During all of the material prosperity, mixed with Indian Wars, religion was not neglected. In August of 1853 Reverend E. A. Greenleaf, who had been a missionary at Stillwater, came to Shakopee. "It seems much like going into the wilderness," he wrote, "when I came here, but it appeared to me that we ought to have at least one missionary in the Valley of the Minnesota." (47). Sunday services were held in a hall while much of the minister's time was necessarily occupied at the outset with building "a rough board shanty" to shelter his wife and himself, because having spent every dollar he could command there was no possible way but to work with his own hands until the last nail was driven and "the rough structure perfected." Another room was added to the living quarters to serve as a study and school room, Shakopee's first school. The walls were only one thickness of pine boards, and it became so intensely cold that the pupils had to be dismissed because the stove did not furnish sufficient heat to keep them comfortable.

With the coming of spring the minister's desire for a church was again awakened. It was encouraged by two or three small donations from friends who felt an interest in the work; nearly all of whom were struggling for shelter and daily bread themselves. A larger donation of \$100 gave real impetus to the project. (48) During a rain which lasted several days, Bishop Kemper laid the corner-stone of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, May 17, 1854. Building was started in fall by D. M. Storer and others. (49) Reverend Greenleaf left Shakopee in November of 1854 and was succeeded by Reverend Timothy Wilcoxson who held the first services in Shakopee's only church building on August 26, 1855. During these years Reverend J. V. van Ingen and Reverend Thomas H. Pitts visited the congregation quite frequently. In 1855 Reverend E. S. Peake succeeded Reverend Wilcoxson and was followed in 1857 by Reverend E. P. Gray who remained until 1868 when Reverend George V. Palmer came to minister to the congregation. (50)

Reverend Pond, who had come to Shakopee in 1847, began preaching to the whites in 1852, thus the Presbyterian Church has been active over eighty-five years in all and more than eighty of those years have been devoted to the whites at Shakopee. (51) At first the services were held in the mission house, but this soon became too small and the worshippers moved to the unfinished law offices of Henry Hinds. Later they moved to the upper floor of Holmes Hall, where they often had to move whiskey cases out of their way before they could assist at services. In 1856 a church





REVEREND GEORGE KELLER





was erected on Second Street, just a block east of the present church. (52) This was their first real house of worship, and Shakopee's second frontier temple of prayer. Its founder, Reverend S. W. Pond remained pastor until 1867. (53) He died in 1891. (54)

On January 1, 1856, the Catholics had their first opportunity to attend Holy Mass, which was read by Reverend George Keller, pastor of the Assumption Church of St. Paul, in the home of Anton Entrup. The Catholics then determined to meet six days later at the store of George F. Collier. (55) At the first meeting they elected H. H. Strunk, President; George F. Collier, Treasurer; and Anton Entrup, Secretary. The meetings were conducted in the most strict parliamentary manner. A subscription list for a church building was taken up, totaling the sum of \$419 in pledges from \$1.00 to \$50, there being only three, H. H. Strunk, George F. Collier, and Adolph Albachten, who pledged \$50.00. It is interesting to note that out of the \$419 which was pledged \$64.30 was contributed by non-Catholics, among whom were: J. Galbraith, who pledged \$15.00; Henry Hinds, T. A. Holmes, and J. C. Sommerville who pledged \$5.00 each; Wm. McKeen pledged \$4.30 and others pledged smaller sums. Another interesting thing to note is that all the pledges were paid. (56)

They had meetings every month at Collier's "Blue Store." On March 3rd they determined to buy lots 4 and 5 of block 46 (the present church block) for \$250.00. On May 5th they decided to build a church of stone. It was to be 50x23 feet. (57) In August they agreed to build a pastor's house and school, both of which were to be 23x26 feet, and the contracts were let. The church contract went to Adam Koerner, carpenter, and Anton Entrup, stone mason. (58)

The Catholics depended on missionary services of either Father George Keller of St. Paul, or Father Valentine Sommereisen of Mankato until July when Reverend J. Mehlmann was appointed as a resident pastor. (59) He was a diocesan priest, and was succeeded in 1857 by the Benedictine Fathers, of whom Reverend Benedict Haindl, O.S.B. was the first. Born in Bavaria in 1815, he came to America in 1846, and was ordained at St. Paul by Bishop Cretin. Father Benedict was elected Prior of the Benedictine monastery near St. Cloud in 1858 and was succeeded as pastor of St. Mark's by Reverend Cornelius Wittmann, O.S.B.

Father Cornelius, a native of Bavaria also, had been sent to Minnesota by the Abbot of St. Vincent's Abbey at Latrobe, Pennsylvania, in 1856. He was not yet a priest, but on May 17th, 1856, with Father Bruno Riss who had accompanied him to Minnesota, was ordained in St. Paul by Bishop Cretin, and both priests were sent to St. Cloud to work under the direction of their immediate superior, Very Reverend Father Demetrius di Marogna, O.S.B., who had come to Minnesota with them. These three men were the first priests of the order of St. Benedict in this state. Father Cornelius was sent to Shakopee in 1858 and was succeeded by Reverend Meinulph Stuckenkemper, O. S. B. who in turn was succeeded in 1859 by Father Eberhard Gahr, O. S. B. (60)

A Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in 1867, but services were held by Reverend S. L. Leonard as early as 1853. (61) St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in 1860, with Reverend A. Blumer as the



pastor and J. G. Schuetz, Wm. Kurz, and Wm. Fischer as trustees. (62) In 1862 they built a frame church on Second Street, near where the railroad shops were located.

The close of the fifties found Shakopee on the road to success. Material prosperity was at hand for the industrious and thrifty settlers, and their spiritual welfare was provided for by the various churches, all of which had passed from the mission status into regularly organized parishes. The young city was like a toddling babe; it was full of confidence, self assurance and desire to stand on its own never dreaming of the many crises that were soon to present themselves.

- (16) Buck, James S. PIONEER HISTORY OF MILWAUKEE 24.
- (17) Keys in WISCONSIN HISTORICAL COLLECTION Vol. 11 page 418.  
Jones in WISCONSIN HISTORICAL COLLECTION Vol. 6 page 427.
- (18) Meyer in WISCONSIN HISTORICAL COLLECTION Vol. 14 page 207.
- (19) Kessinger, L. HISTORY OF BUFFALO COUNTY, WISCONSIN, pages 227 and 631.
- WISCONSIN HISTORICAL COLLECTION Vol. 16, page 389
- (20) LEGISLATIVE MANUAL OF 1925, page 101.
- (21) Neill HISTORY OF MINNESOTA VALLEY 296.
- (22) Hinds SKETCH OF SHAKOPEE 10ff
- (23) Neill MACALESTER COLLEGE CONTRIBUTIONS Second Series, page 176  
Folsom, W. H. C. FIFTY YEARS IN THE NORTH WEST 607  
MINNESOTA HISTORY Vol. 2, page 261  
Hinds SKETCH OF SHAKOPEE 10  
SCRAP BOOK OF MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Vol. 2 page 21
- (24) Hinds, SKETCH OF SHAKOPEE 10ff  
Neill HISTORY OF MINN. VALLEY 304
- (25) Neill HISTORY OF MINN. VALLEY 297
- (26) Hinds SKETCH OF SHAKOPEE 12
- (27) Ibid 17
- (28) Ibid 14ff.
- (29) Ibid 28.
- (30) Neill HISTORY OF THE MINN. VALLEY 298.
- (31) Ibid 298.





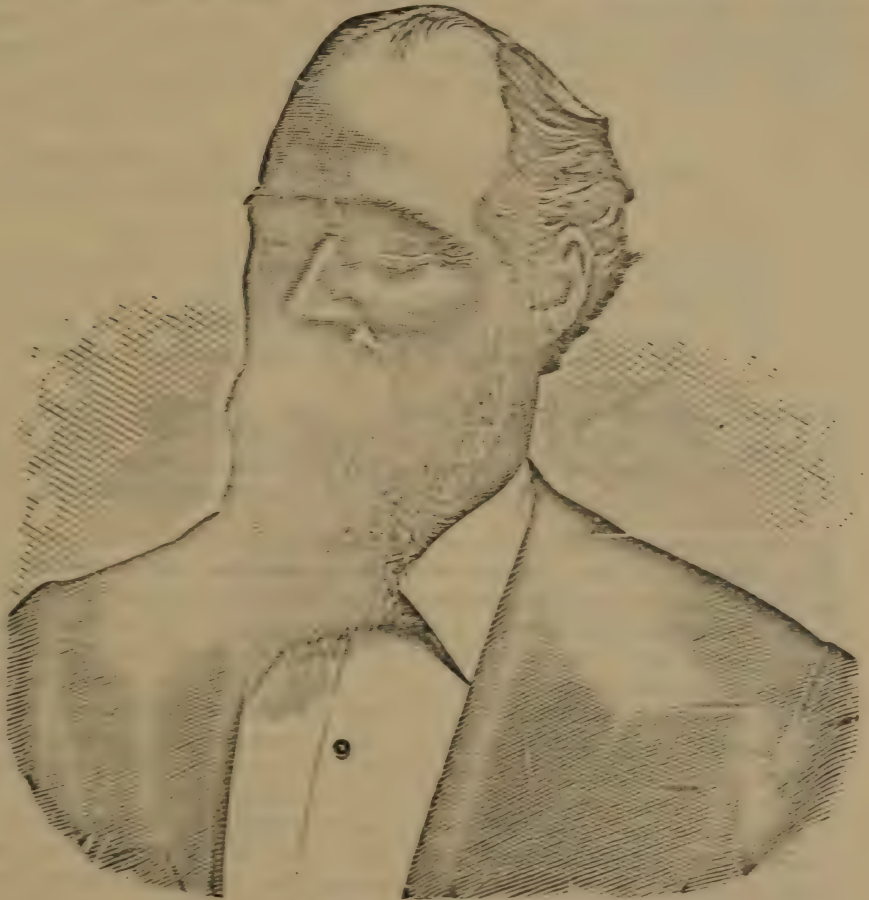
- (32) Hinds SKETCH OF SHAKOPEE 32ff.
- (33) Larsen, A. J., in MINNESOTA HISTORY, Dec. 1930, P. 402.
- (34) Hinds SKETCH OF SHAKOPEE 30ff.
- (35) Diary of D. M. Storer, Folio of Oct. 1852, page 77.  
DAILY MINNESOTA PIONEER, May 6, 1854.  
Hinds SKETCH OF SHAKOPEE 33.
- (36) SHAKOPEE INDEPENDENT Nov. 10, 1855.
- (37) Ibid.
- (38) Ibid.
- (39) SHAKOPEE INDEPENDENT Dec. 8, 1855.
- (40) Bryan, C. S. HISTORY OF UPPER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY 287.  
MINN. HIST. BULLETIN Vol. 6, page 372.
- (41) SHAKOPEE INDEPENDENT Dec. 8, 1855.
- (42) Neill HISTORY OF MINN. VALLEY 302.
- (43) SHAKOPEE INDEPENDENT Dec. 26, 1855.
- (44) Hinds SKETCH OF SHAKOPEE 36ff.
- (45) Ibid. 35.  
MINNESOTA IN THREE CENTURIES Vol. 3, p. 435.
- (46) Folwell, W. W. HISTORY OF MINNESOTA Vol. 2, page 24.
- \*Schurz, Carl INTIMATE LETTERS OF CARL SCHURZ 198
- (47) Reverend Charles W. Baxter's letter to Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Storer.
- (48) Ibid.
- (49) Storer's Diary, folio dated May 1854, p. 26ff.
- (50) REGISTER NO. 1 of Episcopal Diocese of Minn. page 11.  
Baxter's Letter to Storer.
- (51) Pond, E. J. A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE WRITER.
- (52) Pond, in SHAKOPEE ARGUS-TRIBUNE, Feb. 20, 1930.
- (53) Gale, Rev. Robert. A list of Presbyterian Pastors given to the writer.
- (54) Gale ANNIVERSARY PAMPHLET OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
- (55) Plut, Rt. Rev. Mgr. Alois GOLDENES JUBILAUM VON ST. MARK-US GEMEINDE. 3.
- (56) Translated from the first parish book, P. 1.
- (57) Ibid 5.
- (58) Ibid 16.
- (59) Plut GOLDENES JUBILAUM VON ST. MARKUS GEMEINDE 7.
- (60) Hoffmann, Rev. Alexius, O.S.B. Written information concerning the Benedictines sent to writer.  
Plut. GOLDENES JUBILAUM VON ST. MARKUS GEMEINDE 7.  
Savs, Very Rev. Dean M. DIAMOND JUBILEE OF ST. MARK'S CHURCH.
- (61) Hinds SKETCH OF SHAKOPEE 40.
- (62) Mathiae, Rev. Geo. L. LIST OF PASTORS.



'office seekers after the spoils of office. Oh! won't there be a grand scramble about the 4th of next March. 'Come ye faithful, poor and needy' Old Abe has got offices for 'ye all'." (67)

Below this came the painful admission of their disappointment "that Breck. and Lane did not poll a heavier vote in the county. The vote will not exceed fifty in the entire county." (68)

Events followed one another in lightning succession as the Union struggled with the storm. "Late News" from the South indicated that disunion was rampant in South Carolina and that Georgia was acting cautiously over the whole matter, while Virginia, the "state of presidents," called an extra session of the state legislature. (69) Little did the editors realize the importance of the "very latest" news from the South, or they



HORACE B. STRAIT

would not have printed on page two of their paper on the 22nd of December that "South Carolina Secedes . . . . By this act, she is no longer a member of the Union. The Union is at last dissolved . . ." (70) No doubt the editors believed, like legions of others, that the Union could be dissolved and that the "erring sisters should depart in peace."

However, peace was not to be. Civil War in all its grim horror





clutched the nation in its gory talons. Fort Sumter had fallen prey to Confederate guns and the North was finally roused to realization, which was followed by action. All Northern factions fell in line behind Lincoln and the Union just as the Scott County Democrat had when it declared that the "troops must fight through. We all are for the Union, come weal or come woe." (71) Shakopee, still an outpost of the advancing civilization, responded to Lincoln's call for men with the patriotism that is so characteristic of the frontiersman. Sturdy Germans who had fought "mit Siegel," Irish who had fled the famine, Swiss, Canadians, French, English—men from every one of the many nations that had sons in the village of the prairie, joined the troops that left Minnesota, and many of them wrote their epitaph in blood that "the nation might live." In addition to sending her men as privates, the young city sent a physician and three officers ranking as captain or higher into the Grand Army of the Republic. Doctor Weiser was the physician, and the officers were Horace B. Strait, who enlisted as a captain and was honorably discharged with the rank of major; L. L. Baxter, who became a colonel; and John H. Theis, who was made a brevet captain. (72)

Shakopee was also active on the "home front." In May the following notice was published in the Democrat:

"The home guard met for their first drill on Tuesday evening last, and again on Thursday evening. Forty-seven names are enrolled; less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  were out to drill—The Company will drill on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday next, in the evening. Meeting at 7:15 P. M. Roll call at 8." (73)

On June 8, 1861 the Democrat came out in deep mourning, and well that it should. It mourned the loss of a man who indirectly benefited Shakopee on several occasions when he befriended the residents of what is now the State of Minnesota. Stephan A. Douglas had died.

The war waged on. More men were called, and the summer of 1862 saw Shakopee, like countless other communities, with a depleted male population, struggling under the ever increasing burdens of war. But as though this were not enough, a second torment more horrible than the first, struck terror into the brave hearts of the frontiersmen. The Indians were on the war-path. On Sunday, the 17th of August, several Indians of Shakopee's band murdered five whites near the town of Acton, thirty-five miles northeast of the Lower Agency. (74) That very evening the Indians held a council at Little Crow's village near the agency. Chief Shakopee, (Little Six), the son of old Shah-kpa-dan, was there. He had always scorned the whites and favored war against them, but not knowing what to do followed in the able lead of Little Crow. (75) The Indians, angered at the delay of the annuity payments and fearing punishment for the massacre committed by some of Shakopee's braves, decided to attack while most of the white men were in the South. With a ferocity and brutality that was horrible, the Sioux spread death and terror at the Lower Agency.

Fortunately the Indians never reached Shakopee, but fugitives from the massacre constantly hastened through on their way to Fort Snelling. Each group brought news more horrible than their predecessors, and each group reported that the painted warriors were rapidly approaching. When



It was reported that Carter was a dandy, the women and children of Shakopee were rushed onto the steamer *Kettle Kettle* and sent down the river to the Fort, while the men remained and threw out a system of gardens around the town.

It was by their heroic defense of New Trier and other key positions that the virtues of the upper valley lent their own against the Sioux. Military reinforcements were at once sent against the natives. Soldiers with fourteed hundred men came up the river from Fort Snelling, Minneapolis and bivouacked at Shakopee. (78) The next day they pushed on to St. Peter. Soldiers were also sent from the South and gradually the Indians were captured or driven from the state. Although escaping the actual horrors of the Sioux Massacre, Shakopee was left with a fear and hate for the Red Man. The soldiers believed in common with most frontiersmen that "as a rule Indians are entitled to no more sympathy than should be given to wolves or any other wild beasts of the forests." (79)

In conclusion it might be noted that Chief Shakopee fled with many of the Sioux across the border to Fort Gary (Winipeg) where he was found in January of 1848 by John McKenne, who had come to Shakopee in '34 with Holmes and Gaudine Gignee. Chief Shakopee visited first to his band. McKenne and Gignee promised to arrange a conference with the Governor and Bishop Grace to supply their needs if Shakopee would accompany them. To this the Chief agreed and with another Indian, Gaur Iron, set out with McKenne and Gignee. Both Indians were piled with whiskey and when thoroughly drunk they were rushed across the border into United States and carried to Pendina where they were delivered to soldiers who transported the two Indians to Fort Snelling where they were tried. (73)

When Shakopee heard that he was to hang for the murder of Philander Prescott and others, he said, "I am no sinner. I am the witness the white man wishes." (74) The execution was postponed for a month to investigate the charges, but on November 10th, 1855, Shakopee and Medicine Bottle were hung. Father Barnett was with the condemned men from mid night on. Medicine Bottle was repentant and requested the prayers after the priest. Shakopee only granted his assent from time to time. Dressed in military uniforms the Indians mounted the scaffold and died a few minutes after noon in the presence of a throng of curious spectators. The editor of the St. Paul Pioneer said that some tangible evidence of guilt should have been found, though he believed that no serious injustice had been done. (80)

Though saved from the horrors of the Sioux War, Shakopee stood its full share of the Civil War which continued to rage on in the South contrary to the original belief that the war would be a short one. (How often people have believed this!) Regardless of political affiliations, many people were sick of the war. They wanted peace, and one person showed his opposition to the war by chopping down the liberty pole that stood in the center of the intersection of Holmes and First Street. (81) Accordingly, the Shakopee Argus, a paper -sponsored by John Louis Macdonald, a prominent Democrat, began to campaign in 1862 for McClellan, the Democratic Candidate for the presidency. (82) The Argus claimed that he would allow "liberty of the press and freedom of speech" and urged all Shakopeeans





to cast their vote accordingly. (83) The Argus also offered the following alternative:

"If you want more drafts and the continuance of the war for four years longer, give your support to Abe Lincoln. He will have more men killed and squander more money than anybody else possibly could. (Portsmouth Ohio Times)

"That is a fair statement of an undisputed proposition. According to present appearances, the number of those who will vote for Lincoln will be few indeed." (84)

Distributed throughout the body of the paper were short comments that: "Abolitionists dance, while soldiers die; negroes laugh, while widows cry;" and "Let Treason and Abolitionism be buried in the same coffin." (85) Many shared in the belief of Macdonald and there were many Democrats in Shakopee, but evidently fearing to "change horses in the middle of a stream," they cast their votes for President Lincoln's re-election. The election over, the Argus returned to full support of the Republican President and published the statement of the defeated Democratic candidate, Major-General McClellan, that: "The Constitution and Union must be preserved, whatever may be the cost in time, treasure and blood." (86)

Fortunately, less than a year passed before peace came and Shakopee could join countless other communities in the celebration of the momentous event. The new court house was the center of celebration. A contemporary account describes it as being "gorgeously illuminated with candles in every window." But the joy of victory was suddenly hushed. Lincoln had been assassinated. It was again the Democratic Argus that voiced the feeling of the majority from its pages bordered in deep mourning. They asked the question that was in the mind of almost everyone: Who can fill the place of the martyred Lincoln? The Argus believed that it "could at once propose many able and wise men, but they all seemed lacking the great qualities of a leader so recently manifested in the acts of Abraham Lincoln . . . one of the greatest and noblest men of the age." (87)

The assassination of Lincoln was mourned by the great majority, but some were indifferent or even cynical. The Methodist Episcopal congregation was holding a memorial service for Lincoln, when they were suddenly interrupted by a man in the congregation who shouted: "I want to hear no apologies for our public men here. Eighteen hundred years ago Jesus Christ was killed, and how many tears are shed for Him here today?" (88) A moment later the speaker of these words was compelled to leap out of a window for his safety. He soon acknowledged that his remarks were indiscreet, but even then he was not safe from public wrath. A few days later he received the following communication through the mail:

"You are hereby notified that if found in this town 10 days from this note you will be waited on by the lovers of decency and good order. Our motto is the halter to educated traitors and tar and feathers to such as you.

Per Order of the Committee." (89)

Feeling cooled off, and the dire threat was never carried out.

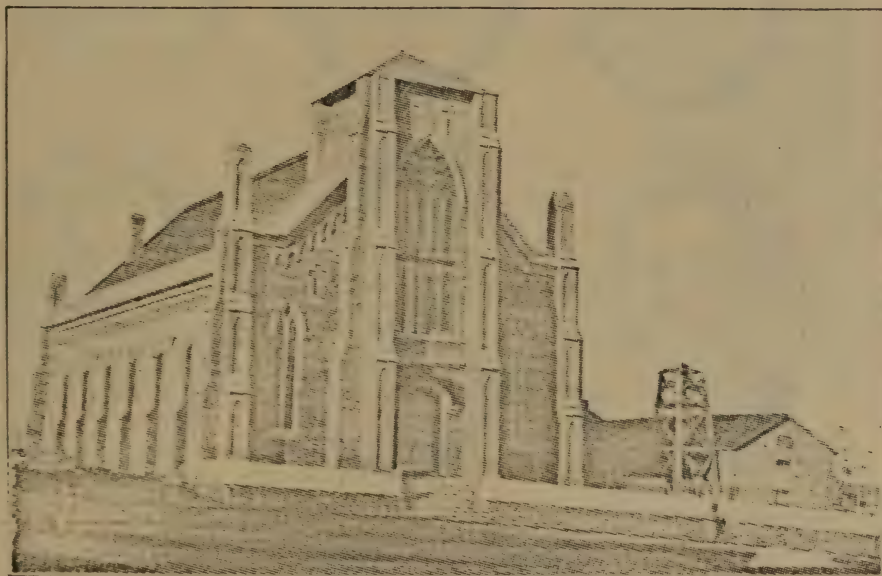
Turning from national and state to local affairs, we find the same hectic conditions—excitement, reckless speculation, and headlong plunging. In 1860 M. Hess Dundas was elected mayor under the original city charter.



which was surrendered soon after and Shakopee fell back under township government. (90) It was not until 1866 that Shakopee was incorporated as a village by the State Legislature. (91)

During 1864 St. Mary's Catholic Church was built. Previous to this time the English-speaking Catholics attended services with the German Catholics at St. Mark's Church. Reverend Father Oster was the first priest to serve the congregation of St. Mary's, and Father Stevenson was the first resident pastor. (92)

In spite of the fact that it lost some of its parishioners to the newly organized church, the congregation of St. Mark grew so rapidly that the original building was soon too small. To care for the growing parish, the



THE NEW ST. MARK'S CHURCH  
SHOWING THE ORIGINAL BUILDING AT THE RIGHT

cornerstone of the present church was laid in 1865 by the Right Reverend Thomas L. Grace, the second bishop of St. Paul; Reverend Eberhard Gahr, O.S.B. was the pastor. With the exception of the tower, the church was finished in 1868 during the pastorate of Father George Scherer, O.S.B. This, the present edifice, was blessed on the bitter cold day of December 8th by Bishop Grace with Right Reverend Rupert Seidenbusch, Abbot of St. John's Abbey, and many other priests as his assistants. On the night of the 7th, the parishioners of St. Mark met his Lordship at the railroad station then in the east end of town, and with a brass band in torch light procession they escorted him to the parish house. The band proudly marching at the head of the procession played its most joyous tunes, but alas and alack! Before they had paraded ten blocks there was deep silence, broken only by the beating of the old bass drum, the music was frozen in the horns. (93)

Father George was soon succeeded by Father Bruno Riss, O.S.B., who had come to Minnesota in 1856 with Father Demetrius, O.S.B. and Father





Cornelius, O.S.B. In 1869 the Benedictine Fathers gave up St. Mark's parish to concentrate their forces nearer to the new center of activity in the vicinity of St. John's Abbey at Collegeville, Minnesota, and Father Gregory Koer-



#### THE BENEDICTINE FATHERS

Top Row—Left to Right—Rev. Benedict Haindl, O.S.B., Rev. Eberhard Gahr, O.S.B., Rev. Cornelius Wittmann, O.S.B. Bottom Row—Rev. Bruno Riss, O.S.B., Rev. Meinulph Stuckenkemper, O.S.B., Rev. George Scherer, O.S.B.

ing, a diocesan priest, was appointed by Bishop Grace as pastor of St. Mark's. The newly organized parish of St. Mary was also placed in his charge and it remained in care of the pastor of St. Mark's until 1878, during Father Plut's first pastorate, when St. Mary's was again given their own priest. (94)

The year 1867 saw the resignation of Reverend Samuel W. Pond who was pastor of the Presbyterian Church and who had been such a prominent figure in the religious and civil history of the State and of Shakopee. Reverend Thomas Campbell took the place of Reverend Pond. (95) In 1869 Reverend Hoffmann became pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. (96) During 1864 St. Peter's Episcopal Parish built its second church. Reverend George V. Palmer succeeded the Reverend E. P. Gray as pastor in 1868, and remained in charge of the congregation until 1871. (97)

For more than a decade and a half Shakopee was without railroad communication with the outside world. In 1858 the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company began to build a roadbed preparatory to the laying of iron,



(steel was not used for rails at that time) but the venture was given up before they even got that far. By an act of the Legislature on March 4, 1864, the Minnesota Valley Railroad Company was organized with title to all the lands, powers and privileges granted by the Congressional Land Grant Act to the Southern Minnesota Road. Actual repair work started on the old roadbed in the spring of 1865 between Shakopee and Mendota. The laying



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

of iron was pushed with such rapidity from Mendota that on the night of November 11, 1865, the first railroad train puffed into Shakopee; it was the construction train drawn by engine No. 1, the Mankato, but the few Indians that remained in the vicinity must certainly have thought that old No. 1, wreathed in steam and smoke, and shooting fire from its stack, was the Beelzebub that Christian missionaries had warned them against—at least they acted like it. Shortly after, a combination engine and passenger car named The Shakopee (Dummy) made regular trips between Shakopee and Mendota:

During the next year, the road was extended the six miles from Mendota to West St. Paul, and Belle Plaine was reached in the fall of '66. Jointly with the Minnesota Central road (now part of the Milwaukee system) a bridge was thrown across the Mississippi River and the road was continued to the site of the present Union Depot in St. Paul. During the same year, 1869, the road reached Lake Crystal and in 1870 reached St. James, a distance of 122 miles from St. Paul. On April 7, 1869, the name of the Minnesota Valley Railroad Company was changed to the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad Company, because of the projected road into Iowa. (98)

In the same year that the railroad came, the First National Bank was organized with David Lennox How as President, and F. L. Balch as Cashier. (99)

Another attack of "wanderlust" prompted Thomas A. Holmes to organ-





be a group of men to search for gold in Montana. As some of the needed expedition spread, many came to join Hallowell and which started in the spring of 1861. Hallowell had several prospectors in the group including Harry Cole, John Hammerville, George Johnson, Dr. Waters and a man named Greenworth. It took the group three months to journey "across the plains" to large settled government mining towns for men and Indians were to be encountered with. For the price of the expedition was not that was found, the market that was sent back to Hallowell was worth about \$100. One prospector after another however returned home but the Hallowell expedition left as a successful venture. One and the others who joined Hallowell when he made the capital of Montana. Some say that Evans was named after a meeting about three miles southeast of Hallowell, while others say it was named after a settlement of Hammerville. One after his return, Hallowell left Hallowell for Colburn, Montana, where he died some years later. His widow returned to Hallowell where she resided until her death. (19)

During 1861 the Sisters of St. Benedict, who had opened a school at Hallowell in 1858, organized St. Catherine's Convent and Academy, but the building was not completed until 1873 and several years later the school was discontinued. The large stone building which had housed the academy is now used as the County Poor House. (20)

In June of 1861 a large tract of land located off the ground for the railroad stage, which the company decided to establish in Hallowell. By July 15th the Woodworth stage had been completed and the machinery installed. The main building was soon located and the number of passengers greatly increased. The opening of the Northern Union Express Company was another progressive step in the development of the town. The company line did not terminate at Hallowell, but continued up the valley. (21)

In the beginning of this period, 1860, Hallowell had a population of 1,123. It was quite evenly divided between male and female, there being 59 of the former and 53 of the latter. There were 40 foreign born of which Germany supplied 22, Ireland 4, Luxembourg 2, France 2, Canada 2, and so on down the line. There were only five from Sweden, while England, Austria, and Italy supplied one each. In this varied population of a town that was still a frontier settlement, one would expect to find carpenters, farmers, druggists, masons, blacksmiths, and the like. But it is rather unusual to find such a settlement supporting a printer, two artists, and a professional musician. John Gutschlag from Westphalia, Germany was the musician. (22)

Indeed the intellectual level seemed unusually high for a town in the stage of its growth. Subscriptions for The Nation were collected by the paper as well as Cole's July issue which was advertised as "last, new and best." (23) In 1860 Hallowell must have had a book and stationery store, the Hallowell Trading Company, which was sold by the Wilson House. (24) A literary society was organized and in St. Catharine, who later became Emma Evans, was elected president of the Defiance Society. They agreed upon two philosophical questions for example, "Does the prompter in a play ever look into his eyes?" which was debated by J. M. Evans and E. Park at the affirmative and J. M. Hallowell and J. H. Hallowell at the negative. (25) There were two singing schools, which were at least purchased by children "after darkness." "Fanny Brown balls" were quite



common, while at least once every summer a notice like the following would send a tremor of anticipation up and down the spinal cords of all "kids" six or sixty:

"The Largest Show Ever in Minnesota  
150 Men and Horses  
Major Brown's  
Monster Colosseum and Great Circus will  
exhibit at  
Shakopee on Wednesday August 4, 1857" (107)

Panoramas, the great grandfather of our modern talkies, were not very common. One of the greatest to come to Shakopee was "The Great Arctic Panorama" which, according to the Democrat, "will be exhibited at the Court House on Monday and Tuesday evenings. The painting occupies no less than 30,000 feet of canvas, and introduces every incident that occurred to Doctor Kane during the two year search for Sir John Franklin." (108)

The club and society movement, so popular throughout the entire country during this period, made its way into the prairie city. Shakopee Lodge No. 6, A. F. and A. M. was organized in 1854. The charter was withdrawn in 1860, but in '63 the present King Solomon's Lodge No. 44 was organized. In 1855 a lodge of the I. O. of O. F. was organized, and lasted until 1864. The I. O. of G. T. established a lodge in '58 which lasted three years. St. Johns' Society was organized in 1866 by local influential Catholics, and still exists. (109)

Thus we see that while Shakopee was a frontier town, it was not an uncultured, unsocial and barren place. Quite the contrary was true, and soon the town was to advance beyond the frontier status. In addition to the river and wagon road, the railroad supplied connected transportation with the East. Unstable frontier activity was being rapidly supplanted by more stable action, and by the year 1870 Shakopee was confident and ready to strike out on a new course of development and progress.

- (63) VALLEY HERALD Nov. 12, 1856.
- (64) Ibid Dec. 24, 1856.
- (65) Ibid June 10, 1856.
- (66) SCOTT COUNTY DEMOCRAT Nov. 1860.
- (67) SCOTT COUNTY DEMOCRAT Nov. 10, 1860.
- (68) Ibid.
- (69) Ibid Nov. 12, 1860.
- (70) Ibid Dec. 22, 1860.
- (71) Ibid April 27, 1861.
- (72) Hon. Julius A. Collier.
- (73) SCOTT COUNTY DEMOCRAT May 25, 1861.
- (74) Neill HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY 195
- (75) MINNESOTA IN THREE CENTURIES V 3: 311.
- (76) MINNESOTA IN THREE CENTURIES V 3: 148.
- (77) ARGUS May 6, 1865.





- (17) McHendrie & Christie CAPTURE OF LITTLE SIX AND GRAY IRON.  
Hinds SKETCH OF SHAKOPEE 4.  
MINNESOTA IN THREE CENTURIES Vol. 2, page 422.
- (17a) Folwell HISTORY OF MINNESOTA Vol. 2, page 443 ff.
- (18) Folwell HISTORY OF MINNESOTA Vol. 2, page 443.  
ST. PAUL PIONEER Nov. 12, 1865.
- (19) Mrs. George F. Celler saw this act from her window.
- (20) MINNESOTA IN THREE CENTURIES Vol. 4, page 37.
- (21) SHAKOPEE ARGUS Nov. 5, 1864.
- (22) ARGUS Sept. 19, 1864.
- (23) Ibid Nov. 5, 1864.
- (24) Ibid Nov. 12, 1864.
- (25) ARGUS April 27, 1865.
- (26) Ibid April 22, 1865.
- (27) Ibid April 29, 1865.
- (28) Neill HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY 302.
- (29) MINNESOTA IN THREE CENTURIES Vol. 2, page 425.
- (30) Pmt GOLDENES JUBILAUM 24.
- (31) Celler: "ST. MARK'S DIAMOND JUBILEE ADDRESS."
- (32) Rev. Alexius Hoffmann, O.S.B.  
Pmt GOLDENES JUBILAUM 7.
- (33) Gale LIST OF PASTORS.
- (34) Matthias LIST OF PASTORS.
- (35) Baxter's Letter to the Stators  
REGISTER NO. 1 OF DIOCESE OF MINN. Page 11.
- (36) Hinds SKETCH OF SHAKOPEE.  
MINNESOTA IN THREE CENTURIES Vol. 4, 253 ff.
- (37) Neill HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY 301.
- (38) Mrs. K. M. Peckay, Sister of Harry Cole.  
Bryan HISTORY OF UPPER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY 237.
- (39) Sister M. Grace, O.S.B.  
Neill HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY 304.
- (40) Hinds SKETCH OF SHAKOPEE 39.
- (41) CENSUS SCHEDULE FOR 1860 (United States).
- (42) VALLEY HERALD July 22, 1857.
- (43) Ibid Dec. 17, 1856.
- (44) Ibid Jan. 21 and March 18, 1857.
- (45) Ibid July 22, 1857.
- (46) DEMOCRAT August 14, 1860.
- (47) Neill HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY 302.



## Chapter IV

### MARCHING ON

#### 1870-1890

In 1857 Ignatius Donnelly secured a charter from the state legislature to build a railroad from his town of Nininger near Hastings to St. Peter on the Minnesota River "upon as direct a line as practicable . . . which shall be determined by the Board of Directors." (110). The people of Shakopee were promised that this road would pass through their city, but the road failed to materialize. In February of that same year, however, another road was chartered that eventually reached Shakopee; it was the Hastings, Minnesota River, and Red River of the North Railroad Company. It was not until March 7, 1867 that an act was finally passed to accept the grant of 1857. The road was to extend from Hastings to Farmington, on through Shakopee and Chaska to the western boundary of the state. The name was shortened by resolution to The Hastings and Dakota Railroad and ten years were allowed to complete the track to the state line. (111) The H. & D. company encountered difficulties of various sorts, in which finances played the major role. In 1869 time for construction was extended two years in order to float their bonds and in 1871 it was necessary to extend it another year. The last extension was granted with the provision that the charter would be forfeited if the line did not extend twenty miles west of the Minnesota River by 1872.

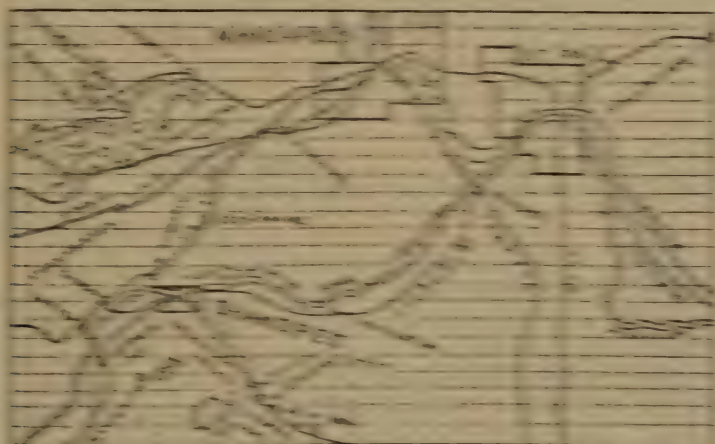
When the surveyors reached Shakopee in the fall of 1869 they were met with the difficulty of securing a favorable right of way through the town and yet keep within their often pared budget. The more they negotiated the larger the obstacles seemed to grow. The officials of the road incensed by the unseemingly delay and fearing that the same difficulties would be repeated in towns to the west, decided to make an example of Shakopee by building the road around the settled portion. At this point it may be recalled that the city charter of 1857 was surrendered in 1862 and Shako-





was annexed to a township and that when it was incorporated into a city (1875) "at that time Manitowish retained not only all of the territory comprising the present city, but also all of the present township of Jackson which covers a little less than twice square miles to the southwest." (187) This being the case, the officials determined to build the road not only northwest of the present city thereby still leaving within the limits of their charter which contained the road to go through Manitowish and in making an example out of the lawyers when they probably placed under the general heading of "barbarism." When the shareholders heard of this plan, they got their heads together and made up their minds to put the game with the railroad officials. It was decided to unite Manitowish into a city. The charter was approved on March 2, 1875 and limited the city of Manitowish to approximately its present area, excluding the tract which was at once incorporated into a township and named Jackson. (188) This move got at once together with the fact that the legislature would not change the railroad charter in suit the company's plans, forced the R. & D. to consider the question in regard to passage of Manitowish. (189)

The only other thing left for the road officials was to continue negotiations for a right of way through Manitowish that would fit into their best plan. Accordingly, they suggested to the city council that it donate the land to the company. Further back authorities had decided to comply with the railroad's suggestion, the Council called a new meeting in the last week of January to let the people determine whether they would donate the road through parts of road. The meeting was a heated affair in which



MAP OF MANITOWISH WITH ITS RAILROAD CONNECTIONS

The meeting ended at the meeting when "that great question and doubt in the last of the" were thoroughly discussed. The meeting resulted in the passing of the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the people of Manitowish do hereby declare themselves opposed to any and all such any circumstances under the right of way for any railroad company through our city." This action resulted in "the" our Senators and Representatives in the Legislature to go their way, and influence against the road.



sension of the time for the building of said Hastings and Dakota Railroad." (116)

Eventually, the road bought their right of way, but did not pay for it all at once. This led to further delay. When the grading crew reached Comfort Barnes' property about a block west of the place where the H. & D. was to cross the tracks of the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad (Omaha Road) they found Barnes and his son John standing on their property with their rifles, which rested on the board fence, pointed right at them. Briefly he told the men that the first one of them that attempted to cross the fence before he was paid for his land would be shot. His determination convinced the Swedish grading crew as well as the H. & D. officials who at once dispatched Barnes his money. (117) This was the last difficulty encountered. The first train on the H. & D. pulled into Shakopee on October 11th, 1871 on its way west. (118)

On February 1, 1872, Representative Chadderdon introduced a bill in the House for the removal of the County Seat from Shakopee to Jordan, and thereby initiated a series of County Seat fights between the two communities. On February 14th it passed the House without amendment, but it was amended in the Senate. The House concurred in the Senate amendment and the bill was engrossed and sent to Governor Austin who refused to sign it. Later another engrossed bill was presented to him, which avoided the objections that he had to the first one, and on February 29th he approved of the new bill. There is no record, however, showing that the second bill ever passed either house and, therefore, although approved by the Governor, it never became a law. (119) A vote of the county had to be taken, and the question was decided in favor of Shakopee's retention of the County Seat by a majority of 92 as the official vote tabulation revealed.

Against Removal	1061
For Removal	963

Majority Against Removal	92 (120)
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Jordan still remained active after the vote and made another effort at removal a few years later.

The County Seat victory was somewhat offset by Shakopee's first great fire which occurred earlier in 1872, destroying the frame railroad shops of the St. Paul and Sioux City road together with all equipment and five locomotives. The fire was discovered at nine o'clock in the evening and raged for over two hours. Almost the whole population of Shakopee turned out to the fire and volunteered their services which were invaluable because there was no organized fire department at that time. In spite of the almost continual drizzle and sleet, a high wind carried burning shingles and firebrands onto the roof of the Henry Hinds home and that of the Lutheran Church. The volunteers and spectators kept the roofs covered with snow balls and avoided serious loss to the buildings. Nothing could be done to save the shops which were totally destroyed; the Scott County Argus estimated the loss at \$100,000. Fearing to lose the shops, a meeting was held to secure permanent location and rebuilding of them and a bonus of \$27,000 was voted by the citizens with the provision that the shops be permanently located. The bonus was rejected, but the shops were rebuilt. (121)

J. C. Eatterfield, the master mechanic, lost his drafting instruments





in the fire and on the following evening was presented with \$350 raised by popular subscription to purchase a new set. Most of the subscribers were people who felt that they were under personal obligation to Mr. Butterfield; others subscribed as evidence of the estimation in which he was held or to show their interest in the shops. The Scott County Argus of the following week gave a complete description of this presentation which was "accompanied by a neat speech from Mr. D. L. How."

The year 1870 marked an upward turn in the history of Shakopee that was well under way by 1873 in spite of several handicaps and setbacks. With all the bumptious gusto that characterized the settler and townbuilder of that period, the citizens set out to make Shakopee the leading city on the Minnesota River. Nothing was too great for them to attempt. Each victory added fuel to their enthusiasm and each defeat, of which there were a few, spurred them on to greater activity. In 1871 Senator Macdonald of Shakopee succeeded in getting a bill through the Senate designating Shakopee as the site for the state prison which was soon to be erected. But the House killed the bill and the penitentiary was later located at Stillwater. (122) The Scott County Agricultural Society was organized in January of 1872 and the first annual fair was held in October of that year. On January first of 1873 Shakopee was out of debt. The court house bonds were paid and there were no city, railroad or county debts. In the nine months previous the machine shops of the Sioux City road, which were being rapidly rebuilt, paid \$37,788 in wages. 31,200 barrels of lime had been shipped the previous year from the local kilns. The Leary and Ries pop factory (now Jacob Ries Bottling Works) was put into operation. Railroad tickets to the value of \$3,253 had been sold. This was certainly not a period of hard times for Shakopee. (123)

The following year, 1874, saw even greater strides. In the spring of that year one hundred new houses were under construction. (124) The Minnesota Valley Academy, a recently organized Episcopal school under the direction of Reverend William R. Powell, was well patronized. The railroad shops were in full operation by April and on the first of that month received twenty car loads of hard wood to be used in the construction of new cars. The national grange movement made itself felt by the organization of a local Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry. (125) In the midst of this hustle and bustle the editor of the Scott County Argus saw one glaring fault and in an effort to remedy it published the following editorial:

#### "BEAUTIFUL MUD"

"Shakopee is naturally a very dry townsite. We might have dry walks at all seasons of the year at little expense, but the fact is we now have mud from one end of town to the other. Every year a thousand and more dollars are expended to build good streets for the horses to travel on . . ." (126)

His efforts were well rewarded. By September 18,000 feet of wooden sidewalk had been built.

However, this sober, vigorous growth was sharply punctuated in 1876 by two visitations, the most theatrical of which appeared one evening in September. Three men clad in linen dusters drew up their beautiful horses in front of John Dean's blacksmith shop to have them shod. As



the story goes the horses were staid and warlike, such a request would not have greatly surprised them or the helper who took the men for slaves from Lake Minnetonka, a then famous resort for wealthy and poor western Easterners. When leading the leader tipped the warbonnet forwardly, and it is the general belief that this man was Jesus James. In any event it is quite certain that the men were members of the James-Younger gang who a few days later attempted to rob the First National Bank of Northfield and were driven in a street battle from the town after murdering Joseph Heywood, the acting cashier of the bank. (127)

The visitation of the locusts, on the other hand, reads like a chapter from the Old Testament. The first formidable invasion of Minnesota by grasshoppers, or locusts, of which there is authentic record, occurred in the Red River settlement during the years 1818 and 1819. From then on there were several comparatively slight invasions, most of them being confined to a few localities. In 1844 and 1845 the locusts caused severe damage in some parts of the state but by the time they reached Saint Cloud it was so late in the season that little damage was done. Very few grasshoppers were seen in the vicinity of Shakopee during 1845 when they were widespread in other parts of Minnesota. In fact it was not until 1854 that they proved to be a serious menace. In the latter part of June a huge army of the pests swarmed over the whole state. By the middle of August the swarms had swarmed on Shakopee and vicinity. Leaves from the trees, shrubbery and grain disappeared in a twinkling. Fortunately most of the grain was saved because of its advanced stage. All means possible were employed to destroy the pest. "Hopperdozers" were most universally used. They were a three sided scoop about ten feet long and two feet deep made of sheet iron. They were pulled across the ground by means of ropes attached to either end. As they bumped along the ground the locusts jumped into the "hopperdozers" and were held fast by the bar which was smeared over the bottom and sides of the contrivance. When filled the "hopperdozers" were scraped out and the locusts and dirt burned. During the fall the hoppers laid their eggs, a favorite spot was the side of a hill or railroad cut facing the sun. As soon as the hoppers appeared the following spring the "hopperdozers" were again put into use. Sticks were thrown around infested areas and farmers scattered their surplus straw and hay over such regions and burned it in the hope of destroying the eggs and the young. But all effort seemed in vain.

Early in the spring Bishop Ireland learned that special services be held every Sunday in all Catholic Churches as a prayer for deliverance. Other denominations also offered prayers and services to rid the state of the scourge. In response to his own feelings and the requests of pious-hearted people throughout Minnesota, Governor Pillsbury proclaimed a day of prayer which was universally observed by all united in a common interest. Then suddenly one Sunday about noon the air was filled with locusts as they rose from the ground. Higher and higher they went, glistening in the bright sun, and then disappeared. Where they went no one knows, some were found frozen and it was many years before locusts again troubled the valley of the Minnesota. (128)

Hardy had one nightmare departed from Shakopee when another followed in its wake. Agitation for the removal of the County Seat from Shakopee was again in the air. The defeat of 1872 did not greatly dampen





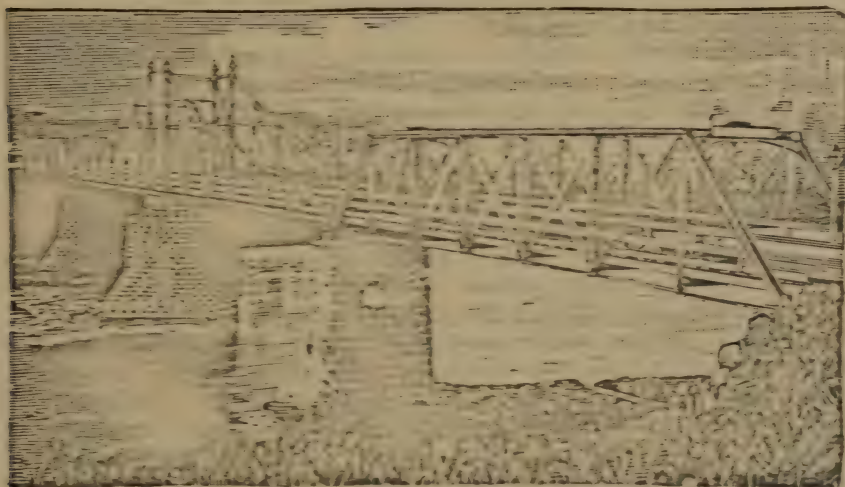
the hopes of the Jordan people as the following extract from a letter written by a Jordan correspondent in 1874 to the Scott County Argus published at Shakopee clearly shows:

"Yesterday I counted 150 teams in our streets loaded with wood, which beats Shakopee by fifty, according to a statement you made in your paper some time ago. We feel confident, Mr. Editor, that were our strength measured by the amount of our wood, we would have no trouble in removing the County Seat, for which thing we ever remain,

Hopeful." (129)

In March of 1873 a bill for the removal of the County Seat from Shakopee to Jordan was urged upon the Legislature, but Mr. Hinds of Shakopee moved to indefinitely postpone the measure. The bill for removal, however, came to a vote and was defeated by a count of 46 to 35. Although the Globe, a St. Paul paper, supported the bill they admired the skill and ability with which Mr. Hinds conducted the fight against the removal. They said that "not one false move was made, and every error of his opponent was made most of. Shakopee should be proud of her representative and his eminent services." (130)

Early in 1873 the people of Shakopee voted bonds to the amount of \$20,000 to build a bridge across the Minnesota River. After bonds were issued the next question to settle was the location of the bridge. V. D.



THE BRIDGE

Simar was engaged as the engineer to determine the best site. He examined the Lewis and Fuller Street sites, and reported that the latter was the most economical one because only one center pier would have to be built in addition to the two abutments whereas a bridge at Lewis Street would require three piers in addition to the two abutments.

After the engineer made his report the Council deliberated on the question. A resolution was offered that the bridge be built at Fuller Street, which was the dividing line between the First and Second Wards. It was passed by a vote of 5 to 4; the three Aldermen of the First Ward



and two of the Second voted for the Fuller Street site while one from the Second Ward and the three from the Third Ward were in opposition. Mayor Geyermann vetoed the resolution. At the next meeting of the Council the Aldermen tried to pass the resolution over the Honorable Mayor's veto but failed. A resolution to build the bridge at Holmes Street was offered as a sort of a compromise, but also failed in its purpose because, although passed by a 5 to 4 vote, Mayor Geyermann vetoed it.

At the next meeting the Council attempted to pass the resolution over the mayor's veto and again failed. Then the Aldermen began to "play horse." By the same 5 to 4 vote the bridge was located at Cressey's Ferry about a mile west of Holmes Street. And this was promptly vetoed. Jangling for a few more sessions the Council finally by a vote of 5 to 4 located the bridge at Lewis Street. Alderman Busse swung the tide in favor of the chosen site. Mayor Geyermann approved the resolution and the bridge was located. Building was soon started and the bridge opened in 1880.

Intense feeling was aroused by the whole episode. The First Ward people who strongly supported the Fuller Street site, boycotted Geyermann's General Store on Lewis Street. Geyermann was forced out of business and left town. It was some time before it could be reported "all quiet on the Minnesota." (131)

In May of 1878 the Benedictine Sisters left Shakopee. They had opened a school in 1859, the year of their arrival and by 1870 St. Gertrude's, a large stone convent and academy for girls, was completed. The first commencement exercises of the academy took place the 20th of June, 1871 and were described at great length in the St. Paul Pioneer of July 1, 1871. In *Der Wanderer* (a German Catholic paper published in St. Paul) of August 26, 1871 the academy ran a notice that school would open on September 4th, and that board and tuition for the season would be \$40.00, bedding and laundry \$5.00, piano lessons \$8.00, and guitar lessons \$3.00. Lessons in cloth, wax work, and the making of paper flowers were extra. It seems almost impossible that the Sisters could furnish board and tuition at \$40.00 for a whole season, but they did and moreover they had the new building almost paid for by 1878. In that year there were 27 Sisters in the community. Besides the girls' academy which had an enrollment of 46 and St. Mark's Parochial School with an enrollment of 150 girls and boys at Shakopee, the Sisters conducted parish schools at Carver, Belle Plaine, New Trier and Minneapolis. They also had charge of the German Catholic Orphanage at St. Paul. It was in May of 1878 that the Benedictine convent amalgamated with a convent at St. Joseph, Minnesota, and the community left Shakopee. (132)

Three School Sisters of the Notre Dame Order came to Shakopee on May 7th of the same year from Milwaukee. They succeeded the Benedictine Sisters as teachers in St. Mark's School. A fourth Sister joined them in June. They and their successors, the School Sisters of Notre Dame of Mankato, have remained in Shakopee down to the present time. (1932) St. Gertrude's Academy was never reopened. (133)

Shakopee's most disastrous fire occurred on October 2, 1879. It started in the brick wing of the National Hotel located at Holmes and





First Street on the site now occupied by the John Benson building. The hotel was a three story massive brick building and fell prey to the flames that spread rapidly from the wing. A strong wind from the West together with the fact that Hildebrand's only protection against a general conflagration that seemed imminent was a bucket brigade and the willing hands of his uncles, prompted the local authorities to telegraph to St. Paul for help. A steam fire engine, a hose and the company were hailed on a special train offered by the St. Paul and Sioux City Road.

In the meantime the fire fanned by the ever increasing wind, spread from the National Hotel where it had started at one corner to the residence and storehouse of Mrs. Gehlen. The house then consumed in rapid succession the two story frame building of John Gummert, occupied as a butcher shop, and Hildebrand's one story cotton wool residence in the rear. By this time the fire burned the rear of said building and the tremendous appetite was not yet satisfied. It leaped across the alley to the Peter Hergens building. The tailor shop of John Franz, Baumhager's widow and the undressinery store of George B. Gartner, which was on the corner of Holmes and Third Street, were soon enveloped by the flames. At four o'clock the special train from St. Paul arrived. In a short time the firemen had the engine pumping water from the river on to the wave which threatened several times to jump to the East side of Holmes Street.

Earlier in the afternoon several stores on that side of the street moved their stock, fearing the fire would go on unchecked. Indeed that was the belief of many as streets and roads were discovered with flaming firebrands and the whole town was covered by a mantle of its own swirling smoke. Fortunately the fire was confined to the West side of Holmes Street.

That evening the grateful citizens entertained the firemen at the United States Hotel, and later in the evening at a reception held in the residence of Reverend Amos Platt, Pastor of St. Mark's. About eleven the special train returned to St. Paul with the fire engines and most of the firemen, some of them remained over until the next day to recover from their exertion and celebration.

The next morning revealed a desolating sight for the citizens of the young city. A whole block of hickory walls and twisted, smoking wreckage was all that was left of what had been a block of prosperous business establishments and happy homes less than twenty-four hours before. But it seemed as if discouragement was unknown. Herman Baumhager was the first to take steps to rebuild. About daylight he contracted with Schneider's Brick Company for material to rebuild. Others moved to different locations and new buildings seemed to rise from the smoke of the fire like the phoenix from Ashurban's lung.

Upon taking inventory of the goods piled in the streets during the fire in effort to save them, pieces of muslin, quilts and even a suit of clothes were found to be missing. William Hildebrand lost a "box nearly full of fine smoking tobacco" which the "finder" was requested to return.

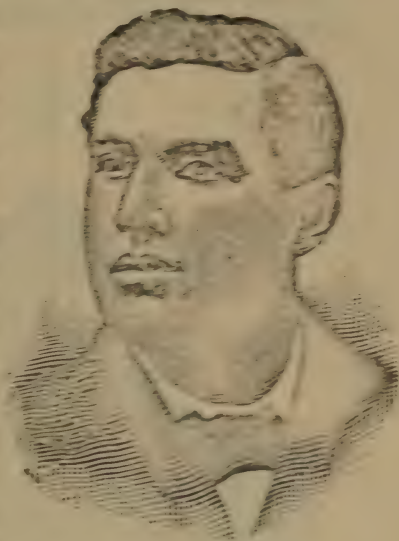
Shortly after the fire Mayor S. B. Strat requested St. Paul to present its bill for the services rendered, and received the following reply from Mayor Dawson:

"..... \$0 for as any remuneration for services rendered is



concerned the opportunity of being able to render assistance to a neighboring city in distress in ampler reward." (134)

The Spring of 1880 saw Shakopee fully recovered from the fire. The census returns for that year show that it harbored 1,647 souls, of which 1,143 were females and 505 males. (135) It was also in this year that Shakopee was old enough to elect one of its native sons to a city office; the native son was Julius A. Collier and the office that of city recorder. Mr. Collier at 21 was the first native Shakopeean to hold a county office. On Monday afternoon, December 4, the frame school building of district number one which stood on the lots now occupied by the Collier residence went up in flames. The next spring districts one and two were consolidated and on January 4, 1883 the new Union School building was opened. (136) Part of this building forms the center portion of the present school.



JULIUS A. COLLIER

During 1883 the machinists in the railroad shops were transferred to St. Paul. The following March the car shops of the company were located at Shakopee and a suitable building erected. However, the large force of men expected to be employed never materialized, and within a year the railroad shops that had been the pride and hope of the town were finally and completely removed. It was on Saturday, April 14, 1883, that the forty employees were paid off and discharged. The machinery was moved to Hudson, Wisconsin and most of the men followed; the vacant buildings alone stood for many years as a constant reminder of what the shops had once been. (137) In the same year Shakopee became a branch station on the Sioux City road. Trains from the West and South were run into the cities by way of Merriam Junction and Chaska. This became effective in June. (138)

Staggered by these two blows, Shakopee made a desperate effort to prove to herself and neighbors that she was not a dying city. Residences were built, industries favored and encouraged to the extent that in less than ten years the Schank Packing Company, Bierline's Foundry, Minnesota Stone Works, and the Russ, Jones Desk Company, all new enterprises, were located and operating at capacity. (139) By a majority of 53 at a special election held during February of 1885 it was decided to build the present city hall. (140) St. Mark's School building was erected; up to this time the old church with a frame addition has served as a school and Sisters' residence. A fire department was organized in the late fall. (141)

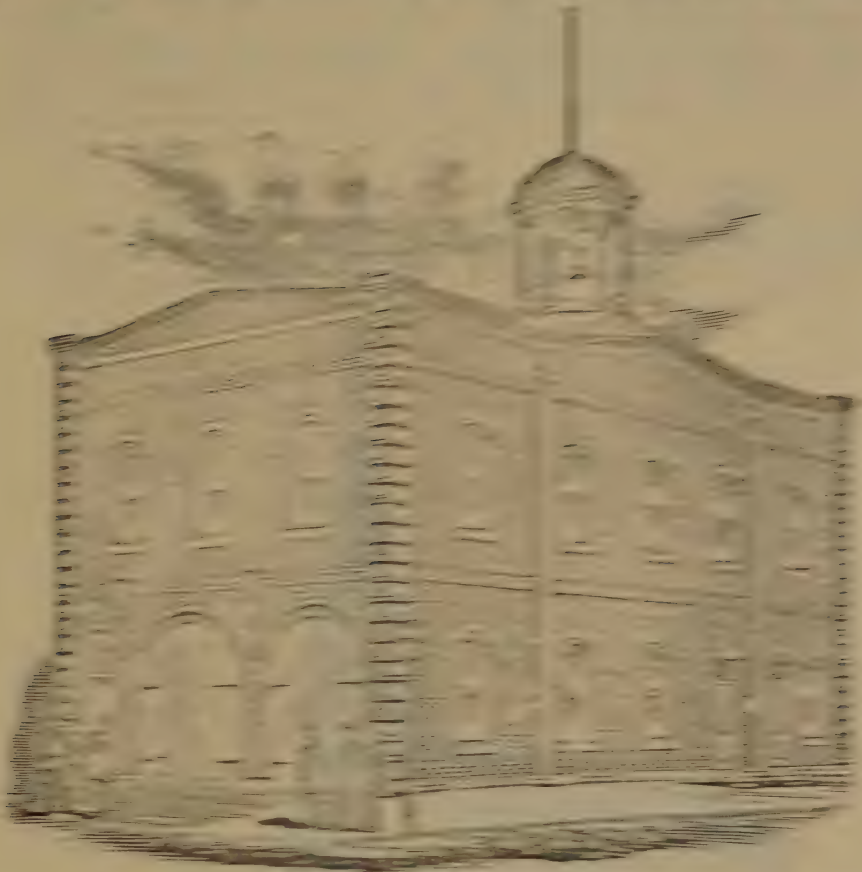
The short but acute local crisis was passed by 1885 due largely to the energy and exertion of the people together with their faith in Shakopee. Once more the pendulum swung back towards contentment and happiness.





For the purpose of this study, the following hypotheses were formulated:

REPORT 2. A number of the residents of the district of St. John's, N.B., have been informed that the Government of Canada has decided to purchase the land on which the St. John's, N.B., is situated, and that the Government of Canada has decided to purchase the land on which the St. John's, N.B., is situated, and that the Government of Canada has decided to purchase the land on which the St. John's, N.B., is situated.



1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

上列各員均係在案，除將各員姓名開列於左，以便查核外，其餘各員姓名，均經查明，並無在案，特此聲明。

一、關於我國經濟建設的方針  
 二、關於我國經濟建設的步驟  
 三、關於我國經濟建設的組織  
 四、關於我國經濟建設的資金  
 五、關於我國經濟建設的技術  
 六、關於我國經濟建設的勞動力  
 七、關於我國經濟建設的物資  
 八、關於我國經濟建設的市場  
 九、關於我國經濟建設的對外經濟關係  
 十、關於我國經濟建設的總結



Reverend Peter Jeram succeeded Father Pilt who had been at St. Mark's since 1874. Father Jeram's pastorate was short, but during it he purchased the stone building that had housed St. Gertrude's Academy from the Benedictine Sisters and remodeled it into his parsonage. Reverend Wendelin Soule succeeded Father Jeram in 1885. (145)

St. John's Lutheran Congregation was administered to by Reverend Hoffman from 1888 to 1874 when he died. His remains now rest in Valley Cemetery. Reverend L. F. Frey followed him and was succeeded by Reverend Carl Mende, 1882-1886. The Pastor from 1884-1894 was Reverend F. W. Spindler (147). The frame church built ten years earlier was moved from Second Street in 1871 to First Street near where the present church is located. (148)

From 1888 until 1878 St. Mary's Church was in charge of the pastors of St. Mark's as a mission church. In 1878 Reverend J. J. Stevin was appointed pastor of the English speaking congregation and remained for two years. Father Carlson, S. J. was in charge for part of 1881 and



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

was followed by Fathers M. A. Brown, 1881-1882, and M. McIntosh, 1882-1888. During 1888 Reverend Sigisbert Mons, an elderly retired priest who lived in the old Ross home on Fourth and Fuller Streets, officiated at St. Mary's. In the fall of 1888 Father James Gaughan was appointed Pastor and remained at Shakopee until 1894. (149)

There are no available records of the Methodist Episcopal Church's





for this period. It is shown that in 1850, the congregation had no pastor.

St. Peter's Episcopal Congregation was organized in by the following: Reverend W. E. Powell was pastor from 1851 to 1852 and again from 1853 to 1854. Between the two pastorates of Reverend Powell Reverend C. T. Over was in charge. In 1855 Reverend George E. Mueller became pastor and was succeeded by Reverend Alfred Gilbert, who in turn was succeeded in 1865 by Reverend James Butler. Reverend F. H. Pratt came to St. George's in 1867 and during those of 1868 Reverend E. M. Fuller became pastor of St. Peter's Church. 1869

- 100. SEASON LANE OF THE TERRITORY OF MINNESOTA Vol. 2, 20.
- 101. Egleston, A. J. RAILWAY LANE OF MINNESOTA P. 20, 2.
- 102. Birds SKETCH OF SHARON IN N. MINNESOTA IN THREE CENTURES Vol. 2, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.
- 103. Hon. Julius A. Cullen.
- 104. LANE OF MINNESOTA Vol. 2, 20.
- 105. LANE OF MINNESOTA Vol. 2, 20.
- 106. NAIL HISTORY OF MINNESOTA LOWER VALLEY Vol. 2, 20.
- 107. Hon. Julius A. Cullen.
- 108. SHARON ARMS Vol. 2, 20.
- 109. Hon. Julius A. Cullen.
- 110. Birds SKETCH OF SHARON IN N. MINNESOTA IN THREE CENTURES Vol. 2, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.
- 111. Hon. Julius A. Cullen.
- 112. ARMS Vol. 2, 20.
- 113. ARMS Vol. 2, 20.
- 114. ARMS Vol. 2, 20.
- 115. ARMS Vol. 2, 20.
- 116. ARMS Vol. 2, 20.
- 117. Hon. Julius A. Cullen.
- 118. SOUTHERN MINNESOTA Vol. 2, 20.
- 119. Hon. Julius A. Cullen.
- 120. SCOTT COUNTY ARMS Vol. 2, 20.
- 121. MINNESOTA IN THREE CENTURES Vol. 4, 2, 20, 2.
- 122. ARMS Vol. 2, 20.
- 123. ARMS Vol. 2, 20.
- 124. Hon. Julius A. Cullen.
- 125. Sign. M. Grace, O.S.B.



- (122) Roger H. Jones. M.A.
- Records of School Board of Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Two VOLUMES. VOLUME OF ST. MARY'S PARISH. 2. 10.
- (123) ARKANSAS Vol. 1. 9. and Vol. 2. 10. 1870.
- (124) ARKANSAS Vol. 1. 1870.
- (125) Two VOLUMES OF ARKANSAS. 1.
- (126) Vol. 1.
- (127) ARKANSAS Vol. 1. 1870.
- (128) Two VOLUMES OF ARKANSAS. 1.
- (129) ARKANSAS Vol. 1. 1870.
- (130) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (131) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (132) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (133) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (134) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (135) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (136) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (137) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (138) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (139) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (140) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (141) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (142) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (143) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (144) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (145) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (146) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (147) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (148) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (149) Vol. 1. 1870.
- (150) Vol. 1. 1870.





## Chapter V

### THE GAY NINETIES

#### 1890-1901

"The centuries of Discovery, Invention, and Electricity are whirling back into the cavernous past, and the century of Crankism seems to be upon us. It is the order of the day. A smattering of learning and a dabbling in social problems seems to have set the country awry. The peaceful scenes of contentment so general only a few decades ago have now become rare and specific. Is it that the wonderful cheapening and wide distribution of reading matter have set new brains to working . . . and failed to supply the all essential governors to the engines of thought?" (152) This editorial of the Scott County Argus voiced the opinion of most thinking people early in the Gay Nineties. They knew something was wrong; the question was, what and where.

Indeed, the Gay Nineties were not so debonair as they might seem from their descriptive name. However, if one takes the epithet "gay" as meaning ostentation, display, pageantry, splendor, or pomp, the appellation fits the period to perfection. The years 1890 to 1901 were years during which the country needlessly plunged into a war for the bravado of it:



years of boasting amid years of need and hard times; they were the years of bicycles, bustles and "mutton leg" sleeves. On one hand the nineties saw the defeat of mighty John L. Sullivan by James Corbett in the world's champion prize fight of twenty-one rounds, and on the other hand witnessed the equipment of the elaborately carved, velvet draped Palace Pullman sleeping cars with hot water heating and Pintsch gas lighting systems. (153)

Elocutionists vied with theater troupes playing Uncle Tom's Cabin, Ten Nights in a Bar Room, or East Lynne, and the Opera House was filled more than once to witness home talent behind the kerosene foot lights staging Macbeth or the then popular Pinafore. However, fore-runners of the twentieth century were already making their appearance in the amusement field as elsewhere. The violin concert given by Alexander, the son of Ole Bull, did not attract the editorial comment given to a phonograph concert by Edison's latest improved phonograph which sang "in the human voice so loud that audiences in the largest city churches are delighted." (154) Stereoptican entertainments were then paving the way for motion pictures which were "perfected" during the nineties. (155)

But in spite of the advance guards of the heir apparent, the aged nineteenth century held its own to the last, smiling on a nation gone mad with bicycles or the tandem with its occasional seat for little ones that made "it almost possible to take the whole family and go to town." (156) The attention of Shakopeeans may have been called to the dangers of at least one current pastime by the following letter which appeared in the Scott County Argus during the Spring of 1890.

"Amusements sometimes become nuisances, and a game that the youth of the town have been playing on the gravel (or dirt) sidewalks and on many crosswalks, has become worse than

a nuisance and reached the stage of danger. The game is played with marbles, and the causes of danger are the numerous holes dug in the walks to the depth of six or eight inches and as many inches broad; large enough for a child, or a grown person to step into and sprain an ankle or be thrown violently to the ground." (157)

In spite of this objection, marbles remained in favor for many years and no local casualties were reported.

The early nineties saw the completion of another link that bound Shakopee to the rest of the world and supplemented the steamboat, telegraph and railway as means of communication. Its arrival was carefully noted in the following words by Shakopee's faithful biographer, the Argus.

"It is with some little pride and gratification that Shakopee views the rapid completion of telephone connections between this place and Minneapolis. . . . All new improvements will be added or used and the agent gives assurance that a whisper at this point can be heard in Minneapolis some twenty miles away. If this should prove approximately true, the line will certainly be a success in all particulars. . . . Telephone communication with Minneapolis will give us an advantage over





surrounding towns which cannot be overestimated." (158)

The promises of the agent proved to be approximately true. A phone was located in Strunk's Drug Store and for several years was the only instrument in town. It was not until June of 1890 that a local telephone



STRUNK'S DRUG STORE

exchange was put into operation. (159) Prior to this the Court House, a few business houses and St. Mark's rectory were connected by a small telegraph system which rapidly fell into desuetude when the telephone was made available for local use. (160) A new street sprinkler, the regular services of an ice man together with the Acetylene gas plants established in Deutsch and Zettle's Drug Store and Schwartz's General Store made Shakopee one of the most progressive of the Minnesota Valley communities. (161)

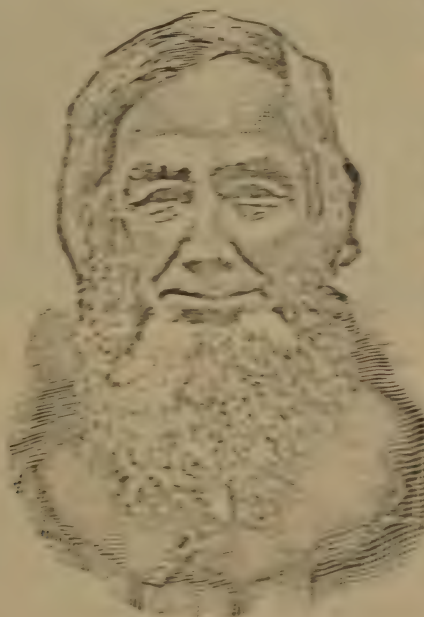
However, Shakopeeans entered into the nineties with heavy hearts in



spite of all this; they were in the midst of another County Seat fight with Jordan. On April 9, 1888 Jordan gave notice of the intention to circulate a petition to move the County Seat to Jordan. (142) Winding through legalities and formalities it came before the County Commissioners. Shakopee took the position that sufficient notice for filing the petition had not been given. Three of the five members of the board, Kelleher, Egan and Bruergeman decided in favor of Shakopee. (143) A subsequent Writ of Mandamus placed the case before Hon. James C. Edson, Judge of the Eastern Judicial District at Glenwood, on February 1, 1890. The Writ was quashed by the Court, thus sustaining the decision of the County Board in favor of Shakopee. (144) The fight was carried to the Supreme Court and on May 21, 1890 a decision was handed down that confirmed the action of the board and the lower court. Thus ended Jordan's third unsuccessful attempt to remove the County Seat. (145)

On December 12, 1891 Shakopee lost its venerable pioneer school-ary. Reverend S. W. Pond died of pneumonia at the age of eighty-three after a life of hardship and sacrifice endured gladly for the cause. His

funeral was held from the Presbyterian Church—the same church which he organized and in which he first preached thirty-five years before. (146)



REV. S. W. POND

The Columbian World's Fair at Chicago was opened on May 1, 1893 by President Cleveland in commemoration of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America. The wealth and progress of the world were on display and gave no hint of the pending business depression that was to spring into view just four days after this wondrous spectacle opened. The failure of the National Cordage Company, inconsequential in itself, was the powerful last straw. Before the end of the year 282 banks went under and 156 railroads were forced into bankruptcy. Money disappeared from circulation as interest rates rose to unbelievable heights. Henry Adams wrote that "men died like flies under the strain, and Boston grew suddenly old, haggard, and thin." (147) Yet strange as it

may seem, the fair paid for its expenditure of \$16,000,000 by its attendance. Shakopee, suffering almost as greatly as the rest of the country rejoiced that 12% of its citizens attended the exposition. (148)

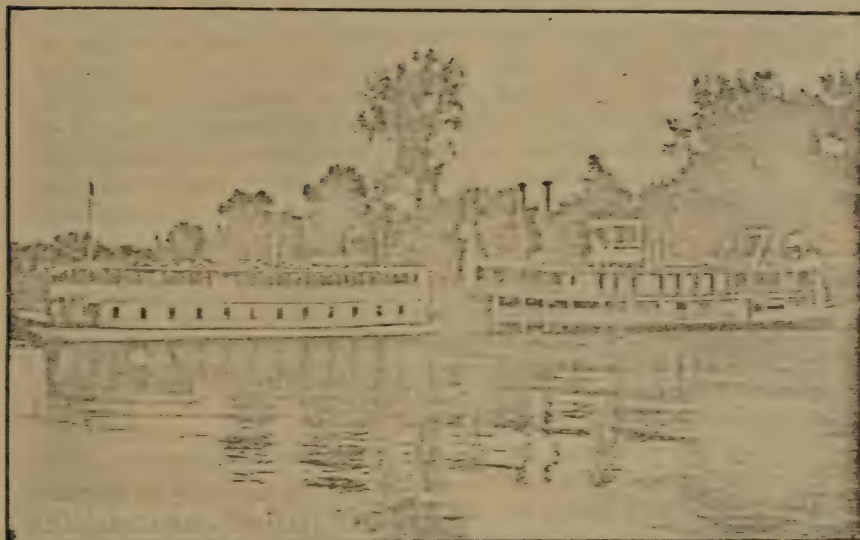
Though fighting for their economic life, people were not depressed, rather than pit themselves with talk of depression, they were optimistically looking for the silver lining. However, it was not until 1896 that Shakopee saw better times. By that fall the normal order had been resumed and business seemed to increase with each triad of grain that reached through on the Milwaukee and Omaha Lines. In 1899 the Short Cut





Road was reorganized under the name of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway Company, called the Omaha Road for short. Since 1882 it has been under the control of the Chicago and Northwestern. (169)

President Cleveland in his annual message of 1896 hinted that time might come when United States should take an active interest in Cuba even to the extent of intervention to end the Spanish rule. This news meant little when it appeared in the Shakopee paper, indeed few thought seriously of such a step. But certain newspapers took it upon themselves to feed the American public on stories relating Spanish duplicity and cruel-



A COMMON SCENE ON SHAKOPEE'S WATER FRONT

ty. No doubt there was much brutality, especially under the dictatorial rule of Captain-General Weyler; but no doubt there was also much propaganda to arouse sympathy for the native Cubans. By 1898 public sympathy and Congress were well on the side of the Cubans. President McKinley, on the other hand, felt that any reason for intervention that might have existed had been removed together with General Weyler who was replaced by General Blanco, a mild, well-meaning Spaniard. Unrest, however, continued and the new United States warship *Maine* was sent to Havana to guard American interests. For three weeks she rode calmly at anchor in the harbor, and then came the fateful explosion on the night of February 19th. Public feeling knew no bounds; the people demanded war. Even in Shakopee, far from the seat of government or revolting Cuba, the local paper voiced the will and sentiment of the people.

"American blood has been spilt whether by the remorseless hand of Fate in the shape of a terrible accident, or by the diabolical treachery of the Spaniard. The United States warship *Maine* was blown up Tuesday evening in the harbor of Havana, and 260 brave boys in blue lost their lives. . . The Spaniards are to blame for the fact that the thought of treachery



is in every mind, and for the nation. Not least, preliminary millions of American people should know that translocation of the cause of the disaster may let the blame on that great battle nation. . . . " (10)

The Spanish revolutionaries blamed the catastrophe on an internal explosion while the American government laid the disaster to an external explosion. The failure of the American board were verified when the Azores was raised in 1941, but it will probably never remain a mystery whether it was the act of a Spaniard, a Cuban or merely an accident.

But in America in 1898 it was beyond a doubt that the destruction of the *Albatross* was the result of Spanish treachery and the manner resembling in the title and cry "Remember the Maine!" In this time when McKinley believed just that the only solution and almost immediate action in the message to Congress on April 11th. "The world will expect of European powers were assured that "The United States hereby declares any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island of Cuba, except for the partitioning thereof, will amount to interference when that is accomplished to leave the government and control of the island to its people." (11)

With the brilliant success of the navy, the spectacular victories of the Rough Riders, and the advances of the army, the Americans found their statement to Europe and became interested in not only the island of Cuba, but some of the other smaller possessions of the once formidable Spanish nation. The Azores came up the position very easily. "Spain is strong in guns. In throwing out a few satellites at India, like the Portuguese, Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines, for instance, she probably has no chance to keep the balance of power as a little longer." (12) An agreement was signed in August of 1898 and the treaty which was ratified by Congress in February of 1899 placed all the islands named above under American control in consideration for a payment of \$20,000,000. (13) In this time the few disadvantages of the war were directed by many politicians and the new feeling of American importance that spread over the United States like a Roman Senator's robe, caused it that the Azores where the war left its cruel reminder—a vacant chair at the family table.

The question of having a municipal electric light plant was brought before the people in a special election on May 11, 1898. The matter was discussed for and out before election but some bettering electricity to be new and expensive through investment. (14) Ballou and the rest were in the question and it was decided to leave hands to the city at \$12,000 for the establishment and maintenance of an electric light plant under city control. Only the voted against the bond issue. After the vote was counted the officers were surrounded by the United band and treated to a display of fireworks which lasted "until we could no longer" (15). The plant, however, was not realized during the few months mentioned in the nineteenth century.

Between 1898 and the close of the century Dr. William S. S. 1898-1900; H. C. Jones, S. S. 1898-1900; A. E. Ferguson, S. S. 1898-1900; and A. V. Wright, S. S. 1898-1900 administered in the name of the Presbyterian congregation. In the fall of 1899 ground was broken for the new church and dedication ceremonies took place in February of 1900 on the first day







FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

anniversary of the parish's organization. (170)

Reverend Kenneth Shult who had succeeded Father Peter Jermi as pastor of St. Mary's in 1907 sold the old Benedictine convent, which served as a parsonage, to the county for a poor house and what still continues to be used for that purpose. He built the present parsonage and enclosed the church property with an ornamental iron and stone fence. During his pastorate the three bells that now chime from the tower on Sundays and special occasions were purchased and on January 21, 1909 they were dedicated. All three bells were lined up in the sanctuary for the ceremonies, and the sponsors of each bell of which there were several, pulled ropes of ribbons around the bells as they tolled for the first time. During the year 1909 Father Shult left St. Mary's and Monsignor John Ford was again placed in charge of the parish by Archbishop Ireland. (171)



Reverend F. W. Spindler was pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church from 1886 to 1894. On Sunday, August 3, 1890 the present church was dedicated by Professor Otto Hayes of New Ulm and Professor Shaller.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

It was a festive occasion for the church, decorated in flowers and greens and filled to its capacity. Reverend Spindler was succeeded by Reverend William Hohberger who served as pastor from 1894 to 1903. (178)

Father E. J. Duffy succeeded Reverend James Gaughan as Pastor of St. Mary's in 1890 and in turn thereafter each of the following served as pastor: Reverend Fathers J. Girrimondi, 1892-1895; James Fleming, 1895-1900; and Patrick O'Conner, 1900-1903. (179)

The Methodist Episcopal Church, in which no regular services were held during the greater part of the nineties, was moved piece by piece to Bloomington Ferry in April of 1900. (180)

Reverend C. A. Sherman resigned the rectorship of St. Peter's church in 1893. He was succeeded by Reverend F. A. Potts who was followed in 1894 by Reverend J. E. Dallam. During 1900 Reverend E. J. Purdy became pastor. (181)









- (152) ARGUS July 5, 1894.
- (153) PULLMAN FACTS No. 2.
- (154) ARGUS Sept. 10, 1896 and Dec. 7, 1899.
- (155) Ibid Sept. 12, 1895.
- (156) Ibid August 25, 1895.
- (157) Ibid March 21, 1890.
- (158) ARGUS July 21, 1892.
- (159) ARGUS June 21, 1900.
- (160) Hon. Julius A. Colier.
- (161) ARGUS March 9 and May 30, 1899.  
ARGUS Sept. 6, 1896.
- (162) ARGUS April 12, 1889.
- (163) Ibid May 26, 1890.
- (164) Ibid Feb. 7, 1890.
- (165) Ibid May 30, 1890.
- (166) Ibid Dec. 17, 1891.
- (167) Shippee RECENT AMERICAN HISTORY 195ff.
- (168) ARGUS Nov. 9, 1893.
- (169) MINNESOTA IN THREE CENTURIES Vol. 4, P. 355.
- (170) ARGUS Feb. 17, 1898.
- (171) Schlesinger POLITICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES p. 240.
- (172) ARGUS July 28, 1898.
- (173) Shippee RECENT AMERICAN HISTORY 254.
- (174) ARGUS March 23, 1899.
- (175) Ibid May 24, 1900.
- (176) Gale LIST OF PASTORS.  
ARGUS Sept. 28, 1899 and Feb. 22, 1900.
- (177) Sava DIAMOND JUBILEE 15.  
ARGUS TRIBUNE Sept. 3, 1921.
- (178) Matthiae LIST OF PASTORS.  
ARGUS August 8, 1890.
- (179) BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF ST. MARY'S PARISH.
- (180) ARGUS April 5, 1900.
- (181) REGISTER NO. 11 OF DIOCESE OF MINNESOTA.
- (182) ARGUS Sept. 5, 1895.  
LEGISLATIVE MANUAL of 1901, p. 589.





## Chapter VI

### THE NEW CENTURY

#### 1901-1917

The bells and whistles that announced the birth of 1901 on New Year's eve did more than proclaim the birth of just another addition to Father Time's family, they ushered in a new century and a new epoch. "For thirty years," as William Howard Taft remarked, "we had an enormous material expansion in this country, in which we all forgot ourselves in the enthusiasm of expanding our material resources and in making ourselves the richest nation on earth." (183) And now, with the advent of the new century, came a period of reorganization and adjustment; a period of "trust busting," canal building and mild European entanglements that lingered on until forced into obscurity by the debacle of 1914.

Shakopee, in a general way, followed the pace set by the nation. By this time the frontier period and the period of vigorous growth were both history. In their place an era of prosperity and absorption of twentieth century life held sway, practically uninterrupted by the panic of 1907.

An automobile on First Street caused no little excitement on the afternoon of May 30, 1901, but its appearance failed to give the aldermen qualms of conscience for appropriating \$150 for a cycle path from Shakopee to Bloomington. (184) And there was no reason why it should because it was several years before Doctor Smith, wearing a long linen duster, goggles, cap, and gauntlets, drove the first locally owned car through the streets. During 1911 cars became popular and local agencies for the Petrel, the E. M. F., and Hudson were established.

"The latest moving picture machine showing Czolgotz in his attempt to get near the president the day before the shooting occurred, also President McKinley in his famous Buffalo Speech" thrilled the people of Shakopee during September of 1901. (185) Moving pictures of the Oberammergau Passion play of 1900 were exhibited in December of the same



year. (186) It was not, however, until 1909 that Shakopee could boast of a permanent "cinema palace." In October of that year the Majestic opened in the Baskin block on Lewis Street charging 10c for adults and 5c for children. The program consisted of motion pictures and slides. (187) The Majestic, which was short lived, was followed in rapid succession by the Idle Hour and the Moon, in the Opera House Block, which in 1913 was renamed the Gem. Sheridan's Ride, a "military masterpiece in three reels" was the opening picture at the remodeled theater which in 1916 ran the twelve reel Griffith spectacle, The Birth of a Nation, and which survived to provide Shakopeans with talking pictures—a far cry from the "one reel super productions" of 1909.

Electric lights were turned on in Shakopee for the first time on Good Friday evening, March 28, 1902. The following evening St. Mark's Church was filled and the Resurrection services were to be made more impressive than ever by the illumination of the high altar, sanctuary and the nave with electricity. The worshippers and their guests were somewhat disappointed for the current was so weak that the lights on the altar and in the sanctuary did not show up well and those in the nave could not be lighted at all on account of a defective connection. However, all the lights worked satisfactorily Easter Sunday evening.

Most business houses were wired but retained their gas fixtures or lamps for use during the frequent emergencies. The people generally were very reluctant to wire their homes, and only the main streets were so lighted. (188) In September of 1913 the local electric plant was discontinued and the General Electric Company of Minneapolis began furnishing Shakopee with electricity, which the city in turn retailed to its citizens. (189) This arrangement was most satisfactory because it was cheaper, more reliable, and led to the more universal use of electricity. A municipal artesian water system was the next civic improvement, and the following year, 1909, saw sewers added to Shakopee's electric and water systems.

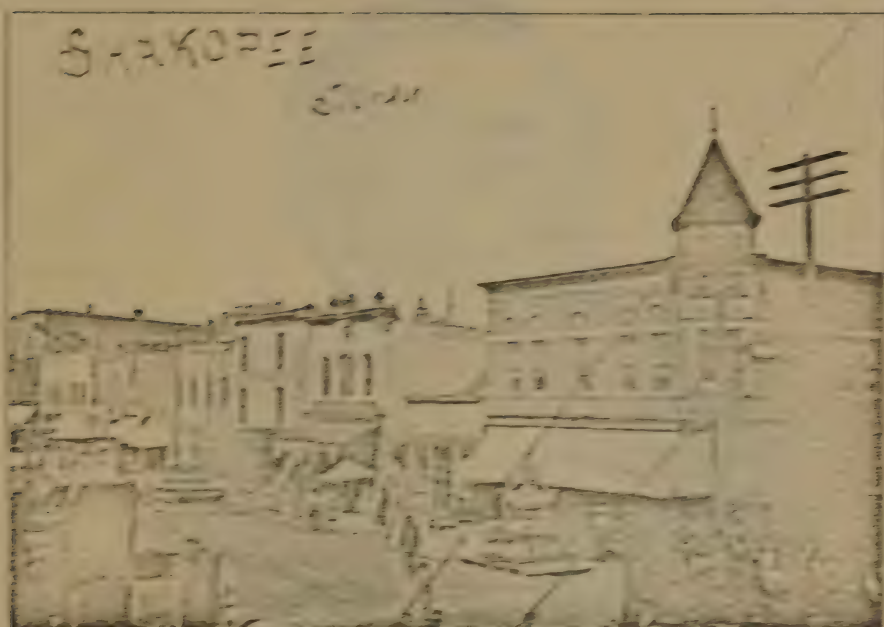
During the 1909 Street Fair James J. Hill delivered an address from the grandstand erected on Bridge Square (Lewis and First Streets). Minnesota's aged Empire Builder was introduced by Mayor Joseph A. Ring and Senator J. A. Collier, and spoke for over an hour to one of the largest gatherings Shakopee had ever entertained. His theme was "back to the farm," warning his listeners "that the most important economic problem in the United States . . . was that of the constantly increasing migration from the farms to the cities, and the decline of agriculture in relation to other industries." He closed his address by emphasizing that "the farm is our main reliance. Every other activity depends on that." (190)

Leaving the platform, the distinguished speaker listened to a number played by the band. When the piece was finished, Hill had the bandmaster brought to his car and handed him a crumpled \$50 bill to treat the boys. Earlier in the day a member of the speaker's committee inquired of his associates whether \$25 would be the right sum to offer the old railroad builder for his trouble. Fortunately for the good name of Shakopee, he was persuaded not to make any offer whatever to Hill.

The new council for the ensuing year met in its chambers on Tuesday evening, April 12, 1910 for reorganization. After William Ries was







STREET FAIR SCENE

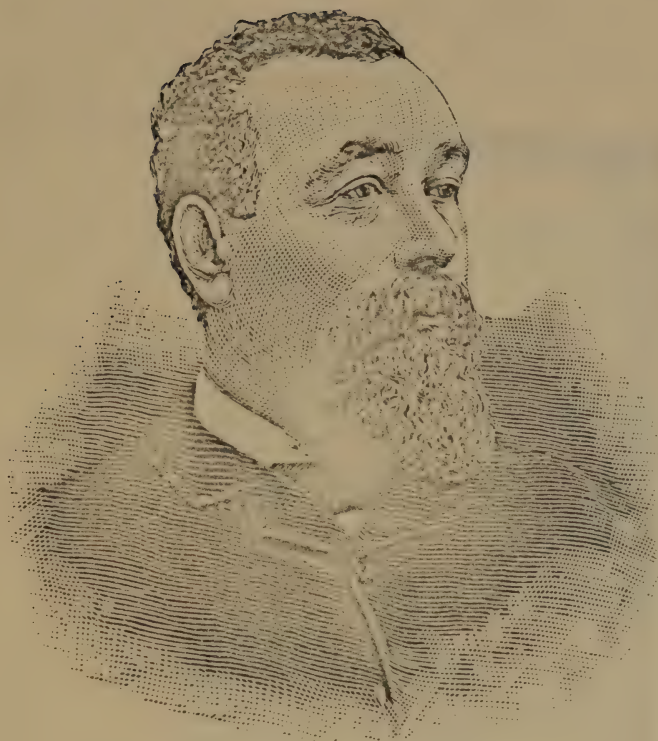
elected president and the organization completed. The annual message of the Honorable Mayor, Joseph A. Ring, was read. He urged that a water, light, and power commission be established in accordance to a law passed by the legislature of 1907 which made the establishment of such a commission optional with cities of less than 10,000 people. Mayor Ring felt that this should be done in order to lighten the council's burden and to secure more efficient operation of the departments under consideration. It was moved that such action be deferred and the motion was carried. (191)



JOSEPH A. RING

A committee of citizens with Attorney H. J. Peck as spokesman opposed the mayor's proposition on the ground that the business of the water and light plants was not sufficient to warrant the establishment of a separate commission. After deliberation, debates and investigation, the council voted down the mayor's recommendation. (192) The defeat of the plan is so thoroughly believed would not only for the advancement of the city, but Mayor Ring to stand in his resignation which he refused to reconsider. President William Ries became acting mayor and at once called a mass meeting to consider





H. J. PECK



JOHN THIEM

the Presidential Election of 1912, as was the custom. Woodrow Wilson

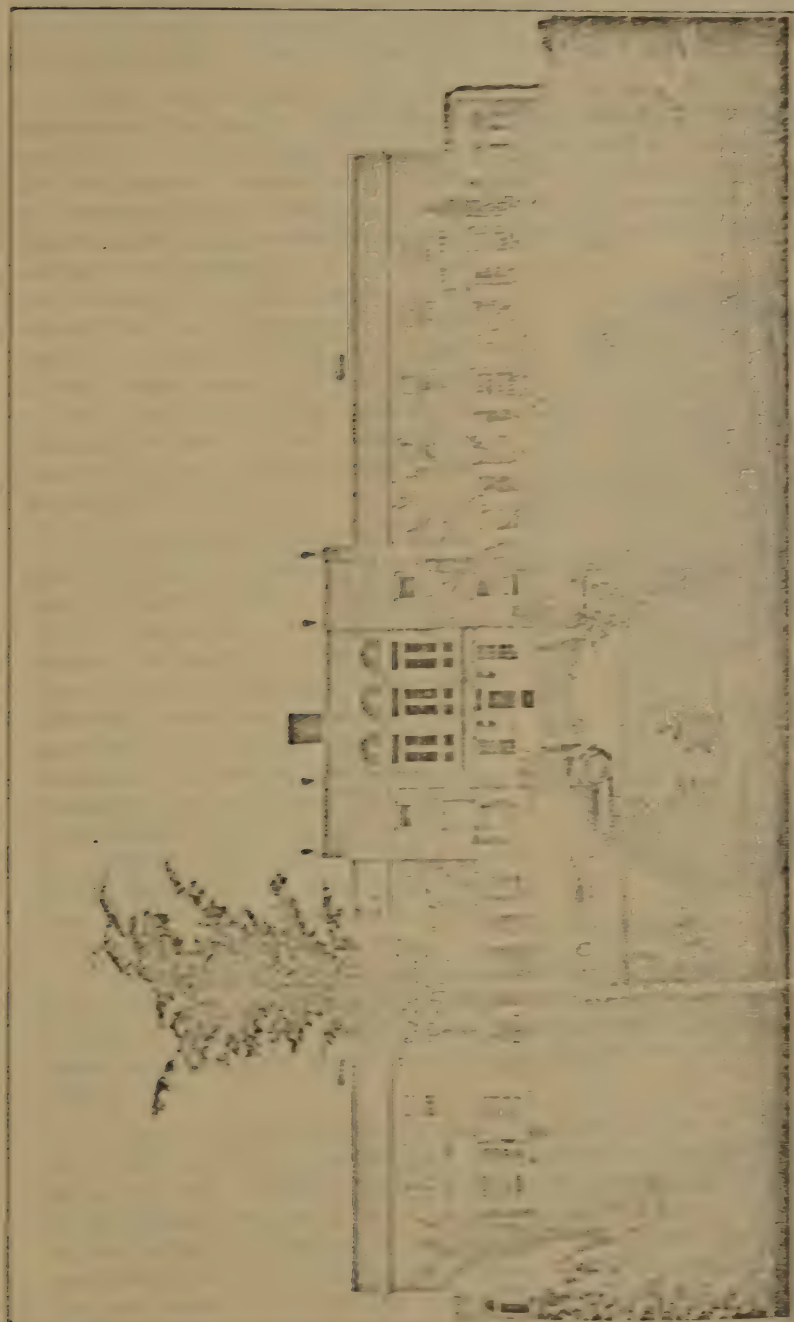
Mayor Ring's successor. John Thiem was the choice of the assemblage, and at the special election which followed was given 228 of the 286 votes cast. (193)

On October 24, 1911 a large crowd assembled at the depot to hear and see the only president that ever visited Shakopee. Although quite early in the morning, William Howard Taft smiled genially and delivered a brief address from a temporary platform while his private car was being switched from the Milwaukee to the Omaha tracks. Governor Adolph O. Eberhart and several state officials joined the presidential party which proceeded to St. Peter and Mankato. (194)

In spite of the warm welcome accorded to President Taft, Shakopee and Scott County went Democratic in







STATE REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN, SHAKOPEE



received 288 of the Shakopee votes to Theodore Roosevelt's 89 and President Taft's 76. Wilson's plurality in Scott County was 580. The Editor of the Scott County Argus was a greater prophet than anyone suspected when in commenting on the election he wrote: "To be President of the United States for next four years will be no easy job for there is much to be done and it must be done in the right way." (195)

The 1915 Legislature passed an "Act creating and establishing a reformatory for women, authorizing the State Board of Control to select and acquire for the state a suitable tract of land to be used as a site for the purpose, appropriating money therefore, and directing said board of control to prepare plans and estimates for the necessary buildings and improvements, for submission to the legislature of 1917." (196) The board was to invite proposals for the site in the manner it saw fit, and did so by writing to the newspapers of the state. On July 2, 1915 the Scott County Argus announced the receipt of one of the letters and went on to describe the act of the Legislature, closing with the brief statement "Let's go after it." (197)

An informal meeting of Shakopee's prominent business men was held in Attorney Julius A. Collier's office to consider the advisability of obtaining proposals to submit to the State Board of Control. (198) The following committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Collier took it upon themselves to convince the board that Shakopee was the logical place for the reformatory: Mayor Joseph J. Moriarty, Theodore Weiland, William F. Duffy, Senator J. B. Ries, J. J. Lenzert, Henry Mergens, Joseph A. Ring, J. C. Linhoff and Col. G. L. Nye.



JULIUS A. COLLIER

Options were secured on nine sites and on September 14, 1915 the State Board of Control inspected them. After looking over the location selected by over sixty other communities, the August Koeper farm at Shakopee was designated by the board as the site for the women's reformatory. (199)

When the board made its selection known to the 1917 Legislature it was confirmed, but no money was appropriated for the buildings. Unable to get any bill providing the money through the Appropriations Committee of the House, Senator J. B. Ries and Julius A. Collier placed the needed appropriation for \$250,000 in the Omnibus bill which was passed without amendment on the last day of the session. The securing of money cinched the reformatory for Shakopee and removed all causes for delay in building. In 1918, as soon as the money was available, building operations were commenced and in 1920 the women prisoners were transferred to Shakopee upon the completion of the main building. The Omnibus bill of



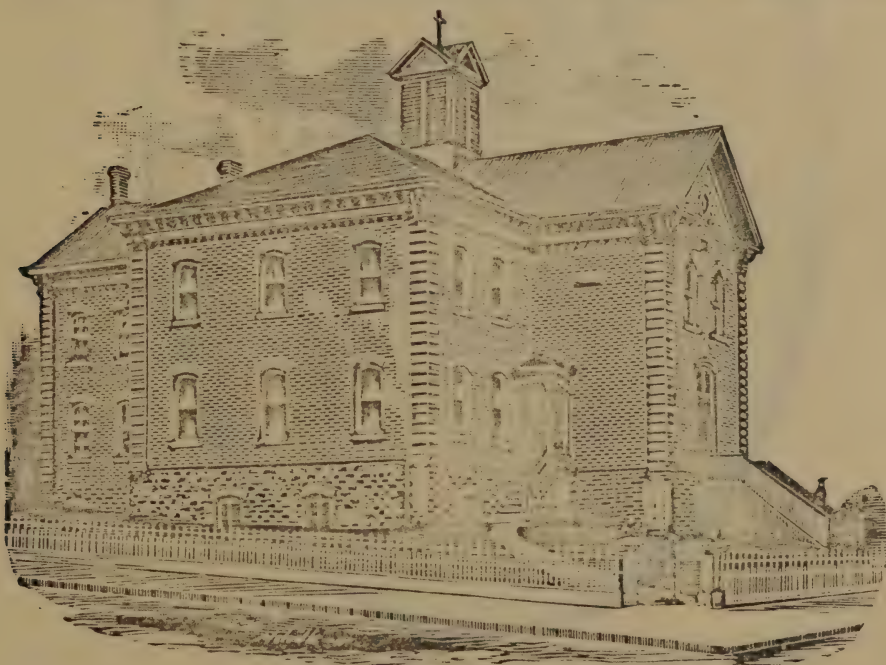


1919 provided money for two more cottages and farm buildings which were subsequently built.

For years the road extending northward towards the bluffs from the bridge, known as the trestle road or lover's lane," was a constant expense to Shakopee because every year the high water of the Minnesota River would cover it. During each submersion, which often lasted several weeks, parts of the road were completely washed away and had to be rebuilt only to disappear the following spring. Moreover, during the high water much of the trade which normally came to Shakopee from the farms across the river and from Mudcura Sanitarium was diverted elsewhere. The sanitarium had been established in 1909 on the base of the bluffs across from Shakopee by Doctor H. P. Fischer, who was very active with Shakopee and Hennepin County to better conditions. In 1916 Shakopee by a vote of 246 to 192 determined to issue bonds to the extent of \$15,000 to improve the road. Hennepin County promised and provided another \$15,000, and with the realization of \$30,000 lover's lane was doomed. (200) The tall trees that formed a lofty canopy over the road were felled and the road was elevated by dirt excavated from both sides



SENATOR  
J. B. RIES



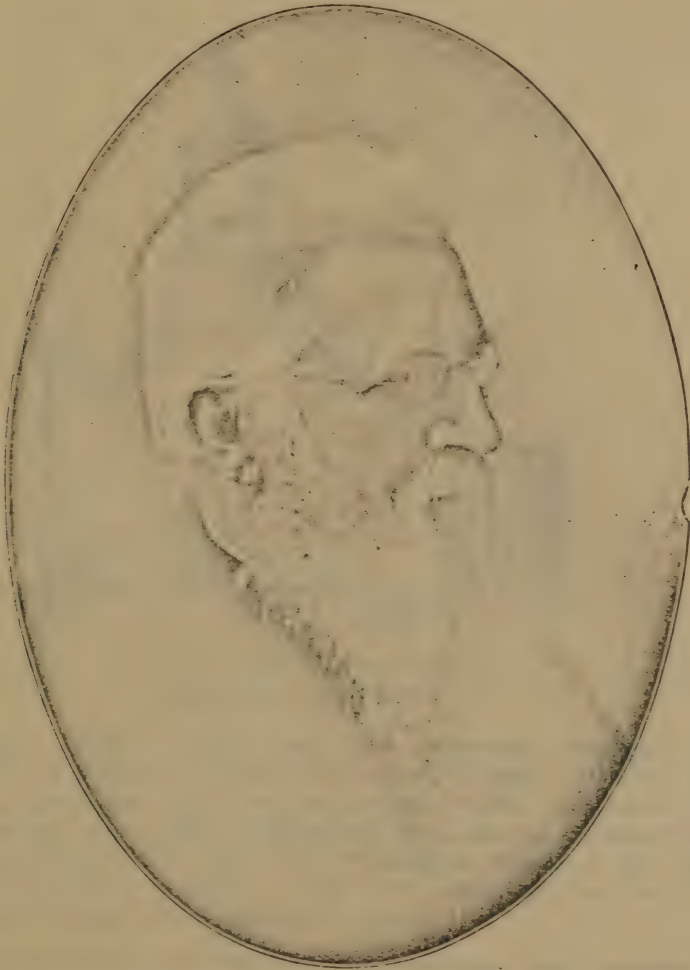
ST. MARK'S SCHOOL

until it gave the appearance of one of Holland's famed sea walls. The dyke road well repaid the effort and money spent and today forms the main bed of the present highway into Shakopee from the Twin Cities.



The Presbyterian Congregation celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its organization on February 19, 1905 with appropriate services. (201) The spiritual wants of the congregation were administered to by the following: A. W. Wright, S. S., 1900-1901; James Hamilton, S. S., 1903-1906; George Hill, S. S., 1907-1909; Edward Loew, S. S., 1910-1913; and Rev. T. S. Thompson, 1913-1917. (202)

Father Alois Plut, who returned to St. Mark's in 1900, was invested with the title of Monsignor on July 24, 1906, thereby becoming a prelate of the papal household by order of Pope Pius X. Archbishop Ireland, in the presence of four bishops, a host of visiting clergy, the congregation and many of the townspeople of all denominations, invested the venerable pastor of St. Mark's with the insignia and purple robes of his of-



RT. REV. MSGR. ALOIS PLUT

fice. At the same time Archbishop Ireland designated Monsignor Plut as a Dean and raised the pastorate of St. Mark's to the privilege of an irremovable rector, which corresponds to a Canon of a Cathedral Chapter





of the 1st World's parliament (1900). In February 24, 25, and 26, of the following year, 1901, the parish celebrated its Golden Jubilee in the new St. John's Church. (24) During Remond's Past's second pastorate (1886-1901) the parsonage school building was enlarged by the addition of a separate Master's residence, and a central heating plant was installed in both all buildings. From 1901 to 1907 the parsonage belonged to the following priests as residents: Reverend A. Leitch, A. Schmitt, Peter Remond, J. Wells, and August J. Keller. (25)

In June 15, 1903 St. John's Church celebrated its Golden Jubilee.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

with impressive services. The church was extensively decorated with painted plants and garlands at about this time for the Golden Jubilee, and dinner and supper were served on the grounds. (26) Reverend Carl Gustafson was the pastor during the golden year, having succeeded Reverend William Anderson in 1901, and remained in charge of St. John's Church and School until January of 1908. It was about this time that St. John's parsonage school was discontinued. (27)

From 1901 to 1907 lay services were conducted from Parsonage at St. Peter's Church. Right Reverend S. C. Skellum was the rector. In 1908 the Episcopal rector was laid. From 1907 to 1908 Reverend Isaac Housgate was pastor. Reverend C. B. Boutwell, succeeded Reverend Housgate who remained in 1909 as well as pastor until he resigned in 1902. From this time on no further services were held. (28)



Reverend Patrick O'Connor, who served as pastor of St. Mary's Church from 1900 to 1903 was succeeded in rapid succession by Fathers McGolrick, 1903-1905; Hugh J. McDevitt, 1905-1906 and Richard E. Lee, 1906-1928. Father Lee had served the previous year as assistant priest at St. Lawrence's Church, Minneapolis. (209)

And this is the story of Shakopee up to the eve of America's entry into the Great European War.

- (183) Schlessinger HISTORY OF UNITED STATES 449.
- (184) ARGUS April 25, May 30, 1901.
- (185) ARGUS Sept. 26, 1901.
- (186) Ibid Dec. 19, 1901.
- (187) Ibid Oct. 22, 1909.
- (188) Ibid April 3, 1902.
- (189) Ibid Sept. 5, 1913.
- (190) Ibid Sept. 24, 1909.
- (191) Ibid April 15, 1910.
- (192) Ibid May 6, 13, 1910.
- (193) Ibid June 3 and 24, 1910.
- (194) Ibid Oct. 27, 1911.
- (195) Ibid Nov. 8, 1912.
- (196) SESSION LAWS OF MINNESOTA 1915 P. 456.
- (197) ARGUS July 2, 1915.
- (198) Ibid July 9, 1915.
- (199) Ibid Feb. 16, 1917.
- (200) ARGUS July 7 and August 25, 1916.
- (201) Pond. A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION.
- (202) Gale LIST OF PASTORS.
- (203) Very Rev. Dean M. Savs.  
ARGUS July 27, 1906.
- (204) Plut GOLDENES JUBILAUM.
- (205) Savs DIAMOND JUBILEE 15.
- (206) ARGUS June 10, 1910.
- (207) Matthiae LIST OF PASTORS.
- (208) REGISTER NO. 11 OF DIOCESE OF MINNESOTA.
- (209) BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH.





## Chapter VII

### THE WAR YEARS

#### 1914-1919

Serajevo, the capital of the Austro-Hungarian province of Bosnia, is crowded into a narrow valley at the foot of high hills. A small river runs through the city, flanked on one side by a fairly wide and straight avenue along which visiting Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne, and his wife rode on the sultry morning of June 28, 1914. As they moved slowly along the beflagged street a bomb was hurled at the Archduke's red car. A heavy detonation followed, but Franz Ferdinand was uninjured. The official welcome was extended at the City Hall as though nothing had happened, and the Archduke and his party re-entered their cars for the return trip. During a momentary stop a few minutes later, caused by confused directions, Princip, a Bosnian revolutionist, aimed at the royal couple and fired the two shots that shook the world. Franz Ferdinand, with blood gushing from his mouth, fell across the lap of his mortally wounded wife. (210)

During the days that followed the assassination, telegraph wires hummed, local conferences were held and countless dispatches written. None of the powers wanted war but Austria demanded justification and delivered the fateful ultimatum to Serbia on July 23. "While the German Kaiser had hitherto generally inclined to protect Serbia from dangerously excessive demands by Austria . . ., after the murder of one of his best friends whom he had just been visiting, by assassins who had come from Belgrade, his indignation against the Serbians was thoroughly roused." (211) The result was that Austria, unrestrained by William II until too late, declared war on Serbia, July 28th. Before the year ended, Europe was crimson with blood and the sea bristled with guns.

America proclaimed its neutrality but failed to enforce it. Amer-



war loans were allowed to export war supplies as the theory that they would sell in one or all of the continents. The allies were the only ones who really benefited by the exportation of war supplies, thanks to England's powerful navy that controlled the seas. This situation, however, had two important results.

In the first place Britain suggested the increased trade between the United States and certain countries with Germany connections, and in countries where American ships at the high rate at which they carried the war supplies. This led to repeated communications from Washington.

The second result of this trade control position, which was due to the need to raise money from Germany. Out of two hundred million in January, the Central Powers were unable to borrow with the other belligerent world of war supplies in the first. In the place of its money and to allow, Count Johann von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador in Washington, presented to William Jennings Bryan who was then Secretary of State. He contended that United States was neutral in name only and that by supplying goods to the allied nations it discriminated against the Central Powers. But von Bernstorff's protests had no effect and accordingly in February of 1915 Germany inaugurated the unrestricted submarine warfare which culminated in the sinking of the Lusitania carrying military supplies to the allies and on which Americans had been warned not to sail. (11)

The movement that flared up in the United States was partly caused by Germany's practice to conduct air restricted submarine warfare. Secondly, however, made this policy unworkable to Germany, and on February 3, 1915, it recognized the unrestricted submarine policy. President Wilson broke off diplomatic relations and announced a special session of Congress which on April 2, 1915, declared that a state of war existed between the United States and Germany. (12)

The new Senators from Minnesota, Martin Johnson and Bruce H. Clark favored the severing of diplomatic relations with Germany but after that the two new mainly anti-spoils Senate leaders Senator Nelson leading the Progressive while Senator Clark supported the opposition. By the special session of April Senator Frank B. Colburn and Minnesota Senator Clark and with Nelson supported the resolution declaring a state of war with Germany. Charles E. Davis of the United Journal and three other Minnesota Representatives were among the dissenters who were defeated by a vote in the House of 275 to 157 on this momentous issue. (13)

Active America's entry into the war against Germany or Austria brought naturally regard for the triumphal return of the Central Powers and they were divided in their position to many of Americans with only those of Irish descent. If they did not share German culture, Germany was usually considered as a common enemy. This feeling was more in tune to the smaller communities, especially where the Central Powers provided as in the case of Chicago. During November of 1914 St. Louis, Missouri, feeling that as a voluntary contribution that the local people had collected 200,000 dollars for the war in Germany-Austria. The Civil Liberty Association in St. Paul, Minn., offering volunteers was organized to assist the army food provisions and collection of the war time for with smaller success, while the National Red Cross and Young Men





undertaken. The local papers ran news of the war on the inside pages. A greater part of this section was devoted to news from the Central Powers and pictures of especially the Kaiser and German war activities. "News from the Fatherland," a special column on the inside page of the ARGUS increased in length with the beginning of hostilities.

As the war continued, many papers began to swing towards the Allied cause if they were not already on that side. The Shakopee papers, however, remained favorable to the Central Powers and supplied the majority of their readers with the news they sought from week to week with anxious eyes. Feeling ran to unprecedented heights during the Presidential year of 1916. The slogan "Wilson kept us out of war" helped carry the day for the Democrats giving President Wilson 1361 of Scott County's votes to the 972 polled by Charles Evans Hughes (Republican). Shakopee gave the President 249 votes against Hughes' 160. Frank Hanley, the Prohibition candidate, received 24 votes in Scott County, 3 of them coming from Shakopee, while the Socialists did not even receive a vote in Shakopee and could only claim 13 from the entire county. The Democratic Senatorial candidate, Daniel W. Lawler, polled 1342 of Scott County's votes to Frank B. Kellogg's 885 and Prohibitionist Calderwood's 245. Shakopee gave 286 votes to Lawler, 141 to the Republican candidate and 22 to Calderwood. Although he was a Republican, Democratic Scott County did her share to return the Third District Representative, Charles R. Davis to Congress by giving him 1404 votes to his opponent's 1070. Shakopee voiced its approval of her Congressman's actions by casting 246 votes for him in comparison to 196 for his adversary. (217)

By spring of 1917 Shakopeeans were well aware that a grave crisis was at hand. The war news in the Argus had become more and more Allied in its content and in February "News from the Fatherland" disappeared entirely. War was no longer a distant attraction, it was a grim possibility clouding Shakopee as it did the rest of the nation during that eventful spring. How the German-American was torn between allegiance and loyalty to the United States and his love for the Fatherland is expressed in a letter written at the time by a prominent Minnesotan of German blood, Julius Moersch:

"If America should declare war on Germany there is only one duty for German-Americans, and that is 'stand by the flag of your country.' Our hearts may bleed and break, but that does not relieve us from the necessity of fulfilling our duty to the land of our adoption. It is the duty that we have taught our children, and it is great and holy." (218)

With the advent of April the war came. In the words of another Minnesotan of German extraction, addressed to a large gathering of German-Americans:

"The war is on. All debate, all question, all inquiry, as to its propriety or impropriety, as to whether it could be avoided or not, as to its justice or injustice, is at an end. This is a democracy, and the people have spoken . . . . And it is now our duty, from now until peace dawns again upon a troubled world, to give our whole heart, our whole soul, all of our being, to our country, to this country that has done so much for us,



this country that to many of you is the land of your choice and adoption." (219)

Shakopee, with its majority of German-Americans, fell in line and marched with the thousands of other communities throughout the land. By May 4, thirteen men had enlisted in the army and navy. (220) The Editor of the Scott County Argus claimed that the saying "'Lay down the shovel and the hoe' should be ruled out of the song books at the present crisis." (221) And indeed it was. All forces were mobilized to help win the war. The men who did not bear arms served in the home guard, farmed, held administrative posts without compensation, worked in their war gardens, contributed heavily to the Red Cross, bought bonds, War Saving Stamps, and Thrift Stamps according to their means. Women canned, knitted, sewed, planted home gardens, and were very active in Red Cross work. All conserved on fuel and food—Hooverized as it was then called. The children, too, "did their bit." Even the flu that scourged the community failed to dampen the people's ardor.

Scott County was asked to raise \$12,000 in a United War Drive for Over-Seas work and responded with \$16,478.70. Shakopee's quota was \$2,100 and she gave \$2,478. This drive was conducted throughout the county by seven welfare activities, namely: Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., K.C., Jewish Welfare Board, War Camp Community Service, American Library Association and the Salvation Army. (222)

But most of these were just deprivations. The real sacrifice came when the government drafted 31 boys from Shakopee to swell the ranks of her gallant May and early summer volunteers. (223) It was on Friday afternoon, September 21, 1917, after a farewell program on the Court House lawn, that the first contingent marched down to the car waiting on the siding. Although the special train from the cities that was to take the boys to Camp Dodge was very late, the townspeople kept the boys company and jollied them as they leaned out of the car windows—all of them were boys, some of them had never been away from home over night, some were laughing and others were sad, some looked unafraid and others seemed timid, but they were all too young to face death on the blood drenched fields of Europe. Before the war ended Scott County had 594 men in service; 201 of these men were registered from Shakopee. (This includes not only the boys from the city of Shakopee, but the surrounding country as well.) (224)

November the 11th. The silenced blackened guns yawned over the shell torn fields of France. With the signing of the Armistice, Peace had come and instead of shrieking and bursting shells, all was quiet.

Jubilation knew no bounds. Long before daybreak Shakopee streets were filled with marching mothers, fathers, wives, sweethearts, and children celebrating the cessation of hostilities. On they marched, bands played, people shouted, whistles blew and church bells rang. All day long the wild celebration continued. That night a peace parade wound its way through the crowded downtown streets, and ended by burning an effigy of the Kaiser.

Indeed, the ending of the World War was a joyous occasion, but like all other joys, a price had been exacted. Scott County's contribution was





18 gold stars—18 young lives offered to Mars, the god of war. Shakopee lost the following in the service of the country: Arthur Lemmer, John J. Bohls, Harry Mather, Walter Scherer, Charles Seiberlich, and Ray Scherkenbach. (225) Arthur Lemmer's blue service star was the first in Shakopee to be covered with the telling gold.



ARTHUR LEMMER

During the war period there was little economic development or progress in Shakopee. All the energy of the community was directed towards winning the war. However, two important changes did come about—one willingly and one unwillingly. In July of 1918 Shakopee voted to consolidate its two independent school districts, thereby abandoning "old 41", which had started so many on the road to knowledge. Prohibition was the other change. Scott County had voted against the amendment 1916 to 896 and Shakopee protested by a vote of 265 to 146. (226) But protests were in vain; prohibition was to be in order after July 1, 1920.

Right Reverend Monsignor Alois Plut who had unremittingly labored for peace died on February 20, 1917 while there was still a faint hope for peace. On the day of his burial, February 23, most places of business were closed from 9 until 12 out of respect for the venerable Monsignor who spent 27 of his 52 years in the priesthood in Shakopee. (227) Father A. J. Kohler remained in charge of the parish until September of 1917 when he was transferred to Clara City, Minnesota, and Reverend Mathias Savs of Delano was appointed Dean to succeed Monsignor Plut as irremovable rector of St. Mark's. This was the last official and personal appointment of Archbishop Ireland. Dean Savs was not exactly a stranger at St. Mark's, having been present at the investiture of Monsignor Plut in 1906 and at his burial in 1917. (228))

Mr. H. D. Funk, S. S., succeeded Reverend T. S. Thompson as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in 1918 and remained in charge until 1923. (229)

In January of 1918 Reverend George L. Matthiae succeeded Reverend Carl Ganschow who had served as pastor of St. John's Church since 1903. (230) Reverend Richard E. Lee was pastor of St. Mary's during the war years. (231) St. Peter's Church had no resident pastor.

While hostilities ended in 1918 the war was not really brought to an end for Shakopee until the homecoming celebration on October 4, 1919. It was then that the soldiers, sailors and marines were welcomed home and those who had fallen were commemorated. Governor Burnquist, Minnesota's war Governor, and Mayor Hodgson of St. Paul were present to address the gathering and a banquet was tendered to the uniformed boys who had that morning marched in the victory parade and who that night returned to civilian life as they laid off the uniforms to which they had brought



honor and glory. The "late unpleasantness with Germany" was a thing of the past upon which Shakopeans turned their backs that they might look forward into the face of a promising future rather than brood over the horrible waste and agony of war.

- (210) Faye, S. R. ORIGINS OF THE WORLD WAR 121 ff.
- (211) Ibid 205.
- (212) Shippee RECENT AMERICAN HISTORY 414.  
Schlesinger POLITICAL HISTORY OF UNITED STATES 509.  
Robinson and Beard DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN EUROPE.  
Vol. 2. p. 359.
- (213) Robinson and Beard DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN EUROPE.  
Vol. 2. p. 365 ff.
- (214) Holbrook and Appel MINNESOTA IN THE WAR WITH GERMANY  
Vol. 1. pps. 35. 40. 52.
- (215) Ibid 6.
- (216) ARGUS Nov. 20. 1914.
- (217) ABSTRACT OF VOTES POLLED IN GENERAL ELECTION. Nov.  
1916.
- (218) Holbrook and Appel MINNESOTA IN THE WAR WITH  
GERMANY Vol. 1. p. 50.
- (219) Collier, Hon. Julius A. "LOYALTY OF GERMAN-AMERICANS TO  
TO THE UNITED STATES." 6.
- (220) ARGUS May 4. 1917.
- (221) Ibid.
- (222) ARGUS Jan. 10. 1919.
- (223) Ibid July 27. 1917.
- (224) LIST OF SERVICE BOYS IN CLERK OF COURT'S OFFICE.
- (225) ARGUS Sept. 19. 1919.
- (226) ABSTRACT OF VOTES 1918.
- (227) ARGUS Feb. 23. 1917.
- (228) Sars, Very Rev. Dean M.  
ARGUS July 27. 1906 and March 2. 1917.
- (229) Gale LIST OF PASTORS.
- (230) Matthiae LIST OF PASTORS.
- (231) BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH.





## Chapter VIII

### YESTERDAYS

#### 1920-1930

Every fourth year has been designated by the people of United States as a presidential year during which they select a successor to George Washington to guide the nation's destinies for another four years. It is a time of unrest as business and industry seem to mark time until after the uncertainties of election are over. No matter how the people have spoken, once the President is elected things usually move along until the next presidential contest occupies the center of the American stage.

The year 1920 was a presidential year, but it was more than just that. It was a period of readjustment—not the readjustment of a locality, a group of states or a nation, but the rehabilitation of an enire war wearied and disillusioned world. Somehow America lost its zest in "making the world safe for democracy" as it repudiated the Treaty of Versailles, which nad been drawn up where the very air was charged with revengeful desires, and turned from the League of Nations and all that Wilson's administration connoted. The Republicans were slated for a return to power and they rode in on the crest of a landslide. Nearly 27,000,000 ballots were cast, a great increase coming from the recent enfranchisement of women. Of this great total the Harding electors obtained 16,138,914 while the Democratic supporters numbered 9,142,438 to the Socialists' 915,302 and the Prohibitionists' 192,438. (232)

Shakopee and Scott County, both predominantly German and Democratic, placed their trust in the Democratic platform of 1916 and cast their votes for President Wilson's re-election. But with the cruel and sudden backfire of the Wilsonian slogan, "he kept us out of war," the political complexion began to change until 1920 found both city and county in the Republican camp. Scott County gave Harding 3015 votes to which Shakopee



contributed 519 while James M. Cox, the Democratic candidate, received 1253 of Scott County's votes, 238 of these coming from the County Seat. The Prohibitionists polled 2 votes in Shakopee and 24 in the entire county while the Socialists were given 52 votes by the county, of which 6 were cast in Shakopee. Scott County commended Representative Charles R. Davis, who had been roundly abused by the press in some quarters of the state for his opposition to the President in the spring of 1917, by casting 2411 votes for him while his two opponents were given only 2204 votes. Shakopee gave Davis 448 to the 311 cast for his two adversaries. (233)

The feverish activities of the war had by this time given place to an ominous lull in industry and business. This condition was just as characteristic of Shakopee as it was of the entire nation. A general slowing up was felt in all walks of life. Shakopee's first blow was the failure of the Security State Bank in 1922. In November of 1924 financial difficulties of the American Range and Foundry Company, which had suffered a



THE OLD COURT HOUSE

\$150,000 fire loss the previous year, necessitated the naming of a trustee for the company. This unstable condition of Shakopee's main industry aroused grave fears which were by no means unfounded. (234) Before the community recovered from the second blow a third fell when the lower foundry, which employed a goodly force of men, went up in smoke.

The first bright spot came with the definite location of a new highway into the Twin Cities, which was to be paved. In August of 1925 its route was marked out through Shakopee and it called for a new bridge over the Minnesota River which was authorized on March 30, 1926. (235) During the next two years while the highway and bridge were being con-





structed, Shakopee business firms benefitted considerably by the patronage of the large crews of workmen stationed in and near the city.

The closing of one of the community's largest general stores at the very beginning of 1928, however, not only added to the list of unemployed but had a depressing effect on all activities which was only partially lifted by the completion of the new road into St. Paul and Minneapolis.

In November Shakopee and Scott County went Democratic in the Presidential election for the first time since 1916. Herbert Hoover, the Republican candidate, received only 1746 of Scott County's vote to Alfred E. Smith's 4419. Shakopee gave the Democratic candidate 775 votes to 239 cast for the Republican choice. (236)

Here a little digression is necessary in order to trace the developments of the recent County Seat fight from its inception to its culmination in 1929. On Monday, July 10, 1927, at the regular session of the County Board, Commissioner Witt offered a resolution to the effect that "a new court house building is necessary immediately and that the chairman of the County Board be and is hereby instructed to appoint a committee of three to investigate the probable cost and expense of a new court house building . . . and to report at the meeting in October." This resolution was passed with only one dissenting vote and accordingly Commissioners Mueller, Witt and Schmitz were appointed on the Investigating Committee. (237)

With the passage of this resolution, which forecasted a County Seat fight, Shakopee became very active. A County Seat Committee was formed consisting of J. H. Moore, Chairman, Theodore Weiland, Julius A. Coller, P. M. Fischer, Wm. F. Duffy, Joseph J. Moriarty, W. N. Southworth, H. C. Schroeder, and E. J. Young. They engaged W. T. Harris, a St. Paul architect, to inspect the building in order to determine whether it could be remodeled, and if so at what cost. He found that the building was in sound condition and could be remodeled. Accordingly, he furnished Shakopee specifications and a plan which, with some alteration of the facade, served as the ultimate plan for the present building; he offered to take the contract at \$65,000 and post a bond to that effect.

A group of Shakopee business men then met informally with the County Board on October 3. Julius A. Coller, as spokesman for the group, submitted the architect's plan and specifications to the board with Shakopee's pledge to pay all costs of repairing over \$50,000 and not to exceed \$65,000. Very Reverend Dean M. Sava spoke on behalf of the proposition, comparing the court house to St. Mark's church building which was badly in need of repair when he first came to Shakopee, and he pointed out the pleasing success which attended its renovation. Several other citizens also briefly emphasized Shakopee's contention. Commissioner Schmitz then voiced his approval of the plan and was joined by Commissioners Witt, Mueller, and Ploumen.

At the regular meeting of the Commissioners on the following day the Investigating Committee reported that a new court house would cost at least \$160,000. The Shakopee proposition was then fully considered by the board and a majority comprising Schmitz, Ploumen, Witt and Mueller determined to accept it. William Witt then offered a resolution calling



for immediate repair and reconditioning of the building in accordance with the Shakopee plan. This motion was passed without a dissent. (238)

Then the storm broke. Lydia, a settlement in the central part of the county, made it known that it wanted the County Seat. On October 25, Jordan gave notice of intention to circulate a petition to change the County Seat to Jordan, and filed the petition with 3562 signatures on November 14. Circulation of the Lydia petition was started on November 4 and filed on the first of December. The fact that the Jordan committee started to circulate their petition eight days after Lydia and succeeded in filing it long before Lydia's petition had the required number of signatures led to a fight between the two contestants over which petition had precedence. (239)

In November of 1928 the question of precedence came before the State Supreme Court, which decided that the Jordan petition should not have been accepted for filing before Lydia's time for filing had expired, and that



REMODELED COURT HOUSE

Jordan had no right to give notice before that time. Within the next few weeks 709 signers of the Lydia petition were prevailed upon to withdraw their names. This procedure was allowed by the County Board on a vote of 3 to 2. Thus Lydia's petition was made null and void, and Lydia soon withdrew from the contest. (240)

With the withdrawal of Lydia in March of 1929 Shakopee and Jordan were left face to face in the County Seat arena, and Jordan filed a new petition securing 4353 signers whereas only 4145 were required by law. The County Board set Saturday, June 16, 1929 as the day for the people of Scott County to determine whether they would change the County Seat to Jordan and build a new court house, or repair and keep it in Shakopee where the Legislature of 1853 designated it should be. Both Jordan and Shakopee held rallies in the different communities of the county the week





preceding the election. Every evening the American Legion Drum Corps, the Shakopee Band and a caravan of Shakopee cars would depart to stage a demonstration parade and then through the medium of Attorneys Julius A. Collier and Joseph J. Moriarty explain to the people why a vote for Jordan would mean higher taxes for the county. Marystown, Savage, Prior Lake, Belle Plaine, Credit River, New Market, Elko and Lydia were visited, and the final rally was held at New Prague on the eve of the election.

The day of the special election, Saturday June 16, could not have been more ideal for the "battle of ballots." The total vote cast was 6978 of which 17 were improperly voted and could not be counted. In order for Jordan to win it was necessary that they receive 55 per cent or 3838 of the total vote cast, and they fell far short of the requirement. Shakopee polled 4428 to Jordan's 2533 votes, or in other words 1895 votes more than Jordan. (241)

The polls closed at five and by six-thirty it was definitely known that Shakopee had won, for it already had piled up a majority. Victory was first proclaimed by the shriek of the fire siren and the booming of St. Mark's big bell. Automobile horns, other bells and other whistles joined in the clamorous anthem. By eight-thirty the streets were so packed by Shakopeeans and their neighbors that it was almost impossible to move about and the busses and cars were swamped by the milling humanity. Halls were thrown open and unrestrained merriment and celebration continued until the eastern skies began to lighten.

Later in the summer the voters of the county supported the bond issue for the remodeling by a vote of 1280 to 602. Jordan, as would be natural under the circumstances, cast 293 votes against the issue. Shakopee harbored three dissenters. In September work on the remodeling project was started. (242)

During 1929 Shakopeeans had plenty opportunities to exercise their prerogative at the polls. In March they were called on to vote whether bonds should be issued to enlarge and repair the Union School building and 672 votes were cast, 636 in the affirmative and 36 to the contrary. Work was started in the spring and school reopened in the fall. Dedication ceremonies were held in connection with graduation in May of 1930. (243)

Before passing into history the eventful year of 1929 witnessed one final spectacular blaze. On Monday morning, December 9, Sheriff Weckman was warned by Brown of the Bankers' Protective Association that an attempt to rob the First National Bank would likely occur later in the morning. Brown and Weckman gathered a posse around the building and waited for the robbers who drove up shortly after nine. Nothing happened until the crime was completed, and then the posse, to the surprise and chagrin of the bandits, opened fire, severely wounding two of the robbers. Thus a fairly common incident with a very uncommon ending put Shakopee on the front pages of papers throughout the country and the news of the rout was flashed from an electric sign that evening high above Broadway. Northfield congratulated Shakopee on using the Northfield method of dealing with bank robbers. (244)

The three bandits were tried the following spring at the first crim-



inal hearing in the remodeled court house, and were sentenced to the Minnesota State Prison for life.

Mr. H. D. Funk, S. S., who had served as minister of the Presbyterian Congregation since 1918 was succeeded in 1923 by Mr. O. T. Walter, S. S.,

who remained in charge until 1925. The following year Mr. Robert Gale, S. S., came to minister to the congregation and in 1930 he was ordained and installed as pastor. On February 23 of that year the First Presbyterian Church of Shakopee celebrated in a fitting manner the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding. During the services a historical address was delivered by E. Judson Pond, "a worthy son of an illustrious father," who was present at the founding of the Church in 1855 by his father and during his 66 years as member he served 52 years as an Elder and 42 as Clerk of the Session. (245) Reverend Gale is still pastor of Shakopee's first church.



E. J. POND

During the pastorate of Very Reverend Dean M. Sava, which dates from September, 1917, St. Mark's parish buildings received general overhauling and the church block completely surrounded by retaining walls, cement walks and curbing. The church

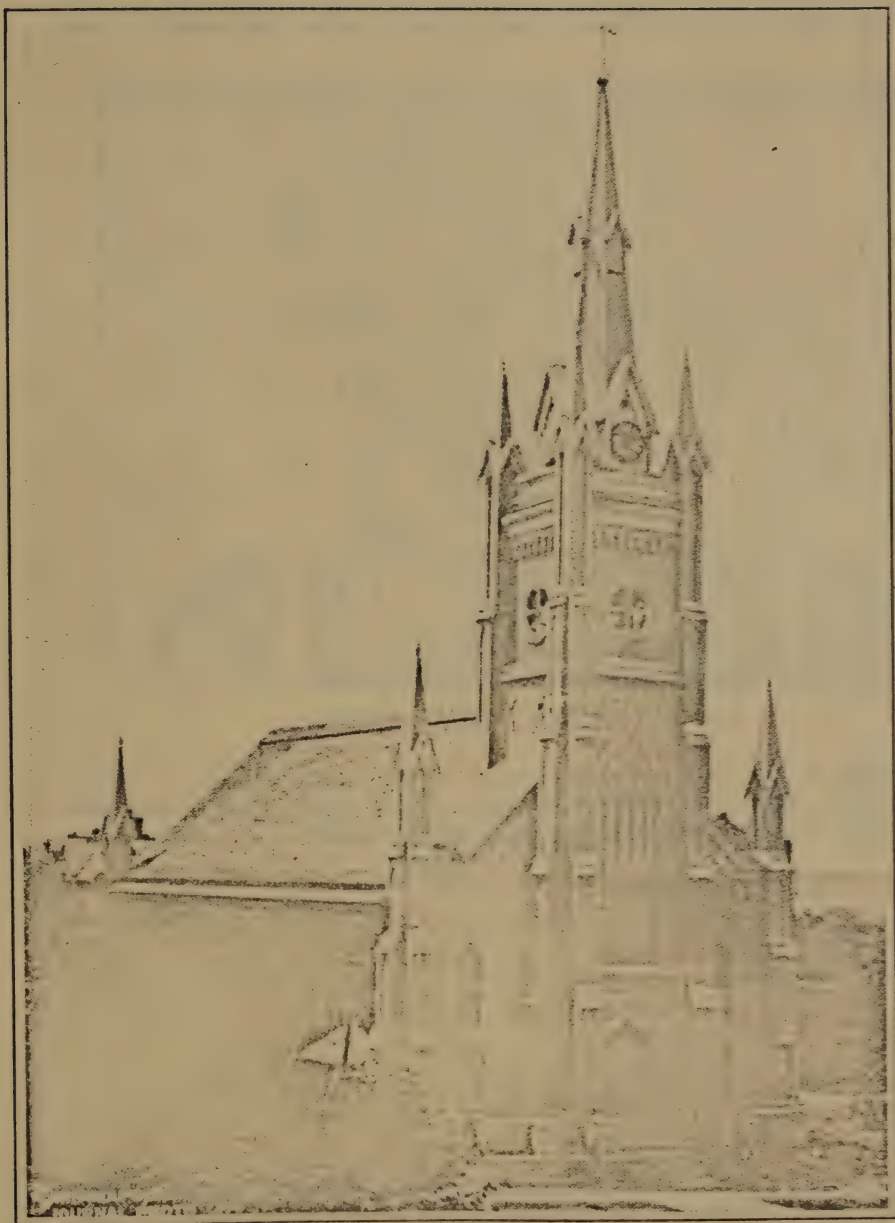
itself received the most extensive improvements including new stained glass windows, among which is a memorial window with the names of eighty-six boys and one nurse of St. Mark's parish who took part in the late war. Five of the boys are listed among those who died in the service of their country. The year 1930 saw the congregation preparing to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee the following year. (246)

From 1918 until 1931 Reverend George L. Matthiae was pastor of St. John's Church. The present building, erected in 1890, was extensively renovated in 1919. (247) St. Peter's Church, in which services were only occasionally held, was torn down and thereby passed one of Shakopee's historical and revered landmarks. In the fall of 1928 Father Michael McRaith of St. Thomas College, St. Paul, was appointed pastor of St. Mary's Church and Reverend Richard E. Lee who had administered the affairs of the congregation since 1906 was appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Church in St. Paul. Father Lee held the pastorate of St. Mary's longer than any of his predecessors and did much to bring the congregation to its present status.

The years 1920 to 1930 have been years of trial for all communities both abroad and at home. Shakopee did not escape her share of the universal burden, but she fared better than many communities of equal and greater size and strength. All in all she has held her own and has even forged ahead in population in the face of small but quite constant migration







THE PRESENT ST. MARK'S CHURCH



to the Twin Cities. In 1923 Shakopee had 1983 people living within its confines and the census of 1930 shows that 2020 were living in Shakopee. (248)

Perseverance, courage and faith have brought Shakopee to its present position. Whether it will forge ahead or go backward depends on nothing more or less than the perseverance, courage and faith of the present generation. "Those who compare the age on which their lot has fallen with the



INTERIOR OF ST. MARK'S CHURCH

golden age which exists only in their imagination may talk of degeneracy and decay; but no man who is correctly informed as to the past will be disposed to take a morose or desponding view of the present." (249)

With the close of 1930 this history also comes a close.

(232) Shippee RECENT AMERICAN HISTORY 518.

(233) ABSTRACT OF THE VOTE POLLED IN GENERAL ELECTION OF 1920.

(234) ARGUS March 23, 1923 and November 14, 1924.

(235) SHAKOPEE TRIBUNE Aug. 27, 1925.

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- (236) Official Returns in ARGUS-TRIBUNE Nov. 8, 1928.
- (237) COMMISSIONER'S RECORD BOOK "L" p. 339.  
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## CHRONOLOGY

- 1682 La Salle took possession of Louisiana for France.
- 1766 Jonathan Carver ascended the Minnesota River.
- 1803 United States purchased Louisiana.
- 1819 Fort Snelling was established.
- 1842 The first steamboat ascended the Minnesota River.
- 1844 Oliver Faribault built a cabin at Faribault Springs to trade with the Indians.
- 1847 Reverend Samuel W. Pond came to Shakopee as missionary to the Sioux.
- 1849 The Territory of Minnesota was organized.
- 1851 Minnesota Valley opened for settlement by the Treaty of Mendota.  
Thomas A. Holmes came to Shakopee and founded the present city.
- 1852 The First Presbyterian Church was organized.
- 1853 The Indians were moved from Shakopee and the period of settlement began.  
Shakopee was designated by the Territorial Legislature as the County Seat of the newly organized Scott County.  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church was organized and a school established by the Minister, Reverend E. A. Greenleaf.  
The first Methodist Episcopal services were held at Shakopee.
- 1854 The first public school opened.
- 1856 St. Mark's Catholic parish was organized.
- 1857 Shakopee was incorporated as a city.
- 1858 The Battle of Shakopee.  
Minnesota was admitted to the Union.
- 1859 St. Mark's School opened by the Benedictine Sisters.
- 1860 St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church established.
- 1861 The Civil War began.
- 1862 The city charter was surrendered.  
The Indian Outbreak.
- 1864 St. Mary's Catholic Church organized.





- 1865 The end of the Civil War.  
Chief Shakopee was hung.  
The first train pulled into Shakopee.
- 1866 Shakopee was incorporated as a village.
- 1867 Sioux City Railroad Shops built at Shakopee.
- 1870 Shakopee incorporated for the second time as a city.
- 1872 The first County Seat fight.
- 1876-77 The grasshopper plague.
- 1878 The second County Seat fight.
- 1879 The great fire.
- 1880 The Minnesota River bridged at Shakopee.
- 1883 The railroad shops were moved to St. Paul.
- 1889 The third County Seat fight.
- 1898 The Spanish American War.
- 1902 Electric light system established at Shakopee.
- 1914 Beginning of the World War.
- 1915 State Women's Reformatory located at Shakopee.
- 1917 United States entered the World War.
- 1918 The World War ended.
- 1927-29 The fourth County Seat fight.
- 1928 Completion of the new highway and bridge into the Twin Cities.



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Many valuable suggestions in regard to source of material for Chapters One, Two and Three were made by Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, Superintendent of Minnesota Historical Society, who also read the entire manuscript.



# INDEX

	Page		Page
<b>A</b>			
Albachten, A.	15	House	3
American Range Corp. (Minn. Stove Works)	37, 69	Marriage	9
Apgar, Al G.	8, 9	Moving picture	52
Apgar, D.	7, 8, 9	Newspaper	10
Automobile, first	52	School	13
<b>B</b>			
<b>Banks</b>		Flemming, Rev. J.	49
First National	25, 72	Fort Sneling	1, 21
Security State	69	Foster, Rev. J.	40
Barnes, C.	9, 11, 31	Frey, Rev. L. F.	39
Baxter, L. L.	20	Funk, H. D.	66, 73
Beanlien, Rev. C. H.	60	Ferguson, J. B.	47
Benedict Hainde, Rev.	15	<b>G</b>	
Benedictine Sisters	26, 35	Galbraith, T. J.	10, 15
Blumer, Rev. A.	15	Gale, Rev. Robert	73
Bohles, J. J.	66	Ganschow, Rev. C.	60, 66
Bridge, river	34, 69	Gaughan, Rev. J.	39, 49
Bruno Riss, Rev.	15, 23	George Scherer, Rev.	23
Bruton, Rev. M. A.	39	Giguere, Onisime	21
<b>C</b>			
Campbell, Rev. T.	24	Girrimondi, Rev. J.	49
Carver, Jonathan	1	Grafenstatt, A.	7
Catlin, Geo.	1	Grafenstatt, J.	8
Chaska	8, 12, 29	Grange, local	32
<b>Churches</b>		Grasshoppers	33
First Presbyterian		Gray, Rev. E. P.	13, 24
..... 4, 13, 24, 38, 45, 47, 59, 66, 73		Green, Allen	10
Methodist Episcopal	15, 22, 24, 39, 49	Greenleaf, Rev. E. A.	13
St. John	15, 24, 31, 39, 49, 60, 66, 73	<b>H</b>	
St. Mark	15, 23, 24, 38, 48, 59, 66, 72, 73	Hamilton, J.	59
St. Mary	23, 24, 39, 49, 61, 66, 73	Highway	58, 69
St. Peter	13, 24, 40, 49, 60, 63, 73	Hill, George	59
Cleveland, Pres. G.	45, 46	Hill, James J.	53
Coer, Rev. C. T.	40	Hinds, Henry	11, 13, 15, 26, 31, 34
Coghlan, Rev.	39	Hinds, J. R.	11
Coller, George F.	12, 15	Hoffmann, Rev.	24, 39
Coller, Julius A.	37, 53, 57, 70, 72	Hohberger, Rev. Wm.	49, 60
Columbian World's Fair	45	Holmes, T. A. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 25, 26	
Cornelius Wittmann, Rev.	15, 24	Hood, George	38
<b>County</b>		Houlgate, Rev. I.	60
Organized	9	<b>I</b>	
Seat fight	11, 31, 33, 34, 45, 70, 71, 72	Indians	3, 4, 11, 12, 20, 25
Seat fight committee	70	Ireland, John	
Court House	11, 22, 70, 72, 73	Archbishop	48, 59, 66
<b>D</b>		Bishop	33
Dal'am, Rev. J. E.	49	<b>J</b>	
Donnelly, Ignatius	29	Jackson, Rev. D. B.	38
Duffy, Rev. E. J.	49	Jackson township	30
Duffy, Wm. F.	57, 70	James gang	32
<b>E</b>		Jeram, Rev. Peter	39, 48
Eberhard Gahr, Rev.	15, 23	Jones, R. G.	47
Edsall, Rt. Rev. S. C.	60	Jordan	31, 34, 45, 71, 72
<b>Election</b>		<b>K</b>	
First	9	Keating, Wm.	2
Of: 1860, 13, 18; 1864, 21; 1912, 55;		Keener, Mrs.	4
1916, 64; 1920, 68; 1928, 70		Keller, Rev. George	15
Electric lights	47, 53, 64	Koering, Rev. G.	24, 38
Entrup, Anton	15	Kohler, Rev. A.	60, 66
<b>F</b>			
Faribault, David	7	<b>L</b>	
Faribault, Oliver	3, 7	Lee, Rev. Richard	61, 66, 73
Faribault springs	3	Lemmer, Arthur	66
Featherstonhaugh, Geo.	2	Lenertz, J. J.	57
Fire department	37	Lewis, R.	7
Fire, great	35, 36	Lincoln, E.	11
Fischer, Dr. H. P.	58	Lincoln, I.	11
Fischer, Dr. P. M.	70	Lincoln, Pres. A.	18, 20, 21, 22
First		Linhoff, J. C.	57
Automobile	52	Locusts	23
Birth	9	Loeffen, Rev. A.	60
Church	13	Loew, Rev. E.	59
Death	9	Long, S. H.	1
Election	9	Louisiana	1
Electric lights	53	Louisiana Purchase	1
		Lydia	71, 72
		<b>M</b>	
		Macdonald, J. L.	21, 22, 32
		Manage, Mrs. C.	3





# INDEX

	Page		Page
Marshman, Rev. D. M.	38	First	13
Mather, Harry	66	First public	10
Matthiae, Rev. G. L.	66, 73	Minn. Valley Academy	32
McDevitt, Rev. H. J.	61	St. Gertrude's	26, 35, 48
McGolrick, Rev.	61	St. John's	50, 60
McGowan, Jas.	38	St. Mark's	15, 26, 35, 37, 50, 60
McKee, J. C.	38	Union	37, 50, 66, 72
McKenzie, J.	7, 21	Schroeder, H. C.	70
McKinley, Pres. Wm.	46, 47	Schurz, Carl	12
McRaith, Rev. M.	73	Scott County Agri. Society	32, 53
Mehlman, Rev. J.	15	Seiberlich, C.	66
Meinulph Stuckenkemper, Rev.	15	Sewer system	53
Mende, Rev. Carl	39	<b>Shakopee</b>	
Mergens, H.	57	Battle	11, 12
Miller, Rev. J. E.	38	Chief	2, 4, 20, 21
Minnesota River	1, 2, 3	City	32, 37
Minnesota Territory	3	Incorporated	11, 30
Missouri Territory	3	Township	22, 29
Mons, Rev. S.	39	Village	2, 23, 30
Moers, H.	7	Sherman, Rev. C. A.	49
Moers, J.	7	Shumway, E.	7
Moore, John	70	Sioux Massacre	20
Moriarty, J. J.	57, 70, 72	Slevin, Rev. J. J.	39
Moving pictures	43, 52	Societies	26, 27, 32, 63, 65
Mueller, Rev. H. H.	40	Sodja, Rev. J.	60
		Sommereisen, Rev. V.	15
<b>N</b>		Sommerville, J. C.	7, 15, 26
Newspapers		Southworth, W. N.	70
10, 11, 18, 20, 21, 22, 42, 43, 57, 64		Spindler, Rev. F. W.	39, 49
Nye, G. L.	57	Stage line	9
		State Reformatory for Women	57, 58
<b>O</b>		Steamboats on Minnesota R.	2, 9, 10, 21
O'Connor, Rev. P.	49, 61	Storer, D. M.	10, 13
		Stove works	37, 69
<b>P</b>		Straitt, H. B.	20, 36
Paige, Jas.	38	Strunk, H. H.	15
Palmer, Rev. G. V.	13, 24	Strunk's Store	44
Panic of:	1857, 11	Stulz, Rev. W.	39, 48
	1893, 45		
	1907, 52	<b>T</b>	
Peake, Rev. E. S.	13	Taft, Pres. W. H.	52, 55, 57
Peck, H. J.	54	Theis, John H.	20
Pike, Lieut. Z. M.	1	Telephones	43, 44
Pitts, Rev. T. H.	13	Thiem, John	55
Ploumen, Peter	70	Thompson, Rev. T. T.	59, 66
Plut, Rev. A.	24, 36, 38, 48, 59, 60, 66	<b>Treaty</b>	
Pond, E. J.	4, 73	Franco-Spanish	1
Pond, Gideon S.	3	Mendota	4, 5, 6
Pond, Rev. S. W.	3, 4, 7, 13, 15, 24, 45	San Ildefonso	1
Population	9, 26, 37, 50, 73, 75	Spanish-American	47
Potts, Rev. F. H.	40, 49	Versailles	68
Powel, Rev. W. R.	32, 40	Turner, Mary Jane	10
Prohibition	64, 66, 69		
Pullen, Rev. C. M.	40	<b>U</b>	
Purdy, Rev. E. J.	49	<b>V</b>	
		<b>W</b>	
<b>Q</b>		Walter, O. T.	73
<b>R</b>		<b>Wars</b>	
<b>Railroads</b>		Civil	18, 21
Henderson and Dakota		Indian	11, 20
(Milwaukee)	29, 30, 31, 45	Spanish American	46
Shops	26, 31, 32, 37	World	62, 63, 64, 65, 66
Sioux City (Omaha)	24, 26, 31, 36, 37, 43, 45	Dead	66, 73
Raynor, H.	8	Drive	65
Remskar, Rev. P.	60	Relief	63, 65
Ries Bottling Works	32	Water system	53, 54
Ries, J. B.	57	Webster, Dr.	47
Ries, Wm.	53, 54	Weiland, Theodore	57, 70
Ring, J. A.	53, 54, 55, 57	Weiser, Dr.	20
		Wilcoxson, Rev. T.	13
<b>S</b>		Wilson, Pres. W.	55, 57, 63, 64, 68
Savs, Rev. Dean M.	66, 70, 73	Wisconsin Territory	3
Scherer, Walter	66	Wood, Robert S.	2
Scherkenbach, Ray.	66	Wright, A. W.	47, 59
Scholzen, Rev. A.	60		
School Sisters of Notre Dame	35	<b>X</b>	
<b>Schools</b>		<b>Y</b>	
Business	50	Young, E. J.	70
District 41	50, 66	<b>Z</b>	













